



THE NOE VALLEY VOICE

Pigeon Poop Ruffles Noe Feathers

By Katie Monagle

Does Noe Valley have a preponderance of pigeons? These birds—sometimes called "flying rats" by their more militant detractors—have lately created quite a stir in the neighborhood.

The flap seems liveliest among residents and merchants along Church and Sanchez streets from Army to 30th, where some consider the pigeons and their droppings to be an urgent community problem and others feel strongly that pigeons have the right to flock and feed wherever they like.

The main criticism of the pigeons is that they damage the facades of Noe Valley's prized Victorians by defecating on their expensive paint jobs.

"I'm sure that there are many people who feed the pigeons because they think it's a nice thing to do, to feed an animal, but I don't think they have thought of the problems which ensue," said Sue Mc-



Pigeons—are they gentle doves whose presence lends a charming European ambience to San Francisco? Or just "rats with wings" bent on sliming our buildings? Noe Valley can't decide. PHOTO BY CHARLES KENNARD

Donald, who lives near the Upper Noe Recreation Center on Sanchez Street, a popular pigeon hangout.

"Hundreds of pigeons roost on the roof of the center, then spend their days flying onto neighboring houses," leaving deposits of poop, McDonald maintains. The accumulated droppings not only make a mess, she says, but can destroy the residents' roofs.

Sylvia and John Powell, owners of the

antique shop Homes of Charm on Church Street near Duncan, have been pigeon combatants for the past 25 years. They say the problem is worse nowadays because there is a "Pigeon Lady" who walks the neighborhood twice a day, covertly sprinkling the sidewalk with grain. It is in large part her feeding of the birds, they say, that "keeps the pigeon popula-

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Walgreen's Runs Gauntlet, But Wins Prize Little Bell Spot

By Denise Minor

Walgreen Drug Stores cleared the final hurdle in its quest to move into 1333 Castro St. last month. But not without first triggering one of the most divisive debates in Noe Valley's history.

Dozens of feisty neighbors showed up at an April 7 meeting of the San Francisco Planning Commission to staunchly defend or deride Walgreen's, which was seeking the go-ahead to open a Noe Valley branch in the storefront vacated by Little Bell Market last fall.

Some residents stood in favor of the chain store's long hours, large inventory, and discount prices, but others questioned the need for a third drugstore in the space of two blocks. (Castro Pharmacy has occupied the corner of 24th and Castro for more than 13 years, and Thrifty Jr. moved onto 24th Street a few doors away last October.)

Still others voiced their preference for locally-owned businesses or housing on the site, which includes a parking lot at Castro and Jersey.

Friends of Noe Valley member John Stalp was there to lament the demise of his dream to develop a mix of senior housing and small businesses on the lot. "We had help from the mayor's office in studying this proposal, and it was determined that mixed-use was viable," he said.

"But Walgreen's didn't want to back out of the lease, and neither did the owner. Bill Witte [director of city housing and economic development] informed us that condemnation of the property by the city would be inappropriate."

Stalp also noted that "Walgreen's has a 30-year lease, so it appears we'll have to wait that long to investigate what really is the best use for the site."

Vocal local Fred Methner, who turned up with an entourage of Walgreen's supporters from his East & West of Castro Club, maintained, however, that free enterprise would provide the ultimate test. He told the commission that chain

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Filmmaker Broughton—'Perverse' and Proud of It

By Jeff Kaliss

A long line of scantily clad film lovers waited to get into the ornate Castro Theatre on a sunny Saturday in the middle of the recent heat wave. Gay and straight, young and old, beat, hippie and yuppie, they were there for the San Francisco Film Festival's tribute to a 74-year-old favorite son.

But James Broughton, the object of their adoration, was genuinely surprised that so many would spend an equinox afternoon watching four of his films in a dark moviehouse. "Why isn't everybody out on a picnic?" he mused.

It might have been because Broughton's films and poems are like picnics: tasty, heady, and fun. "All my work is always celebrations," declared Broughton in an interview at the 21st Street flat he shares with partner Joel Singer.

"That's really my whole thing: the sense of wonder, the sense of delight. Life is a playground, people doing absurd things. To me, life isn't real unless there's a sense of play about it."

Broughton's been playing around for a long time. His family moved to San Francisco from Modesto in 1916, when "Sunny Jim," as they nicknamed him, was 3 years old. At about that time, the young boy experienced a vision of "my first meeting with my angel, who is the most interesting poet I have ever met." This image was evoked some 60 years later, in Broughton's film *Testament* (1974), as a feathered, phallic figure leaping lustily through a field.

Such visions ran counter to the ances-



James Broughton looks forward to the publication of his collected poems and the screening of some of his best-loved films at his 75th birthday celebration this fall. PHOTO BY LORENE WARWICK

tral spirit of Broughton's family. His father, who died when Broughton was a child, was a banker and a descendant of English pioneers of the Old West, and his mother's grandfather had emigrated from Germany with a few bucks in his pocket and died a millionaire.

The rigid sensibilities of Broughton's mother, satirized in his film *Mother's Day* (1948), were reinforced when she got married again, this time to "a self-made bigot businessman" who "had no use for me whatsoever." Broughton was sent off to a military school in San Rafael, "to make a man of me, so I wouldn't be making theatricals, bringing everybody from the neighborhood in and dressing them up."

Luckily, Broughton managed to find a creative peer group at the school, where he continued his makeshift dramas and

began to write poetry. After Galileo High School, he went on to Stanford, where extracurricular activities were his chief stimulation. He finally "ran away" from academia in the middle of his senior year, hitchhiked across the country, and sailed the Mediterranean as a ship's steward.

Returning to New York in the mid-1930s, Broughton earned his way as a writer for the *Herald Tribune* and the *New Republic*. His parents still bemoaned his failure to become a banker, and "were certain they'd have to pull me out of jail or the gutter."

But writing earned him a trip back home when his play, *Summer Fury*, won a prize at Stanford in 1945. For the next few years, Broughton dabbled in the hudding Bay Area theatrical and poetry

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Tired of Being Rattled by Trucks on Clipper St.

Editor:

There are two things I'd like to bring to your attention. First, since we lost both of our variety stores and no new ones seem to be on the horizon, I believe it is a reasonable suggestion that Thrifty Jr. could delete some of the cosmetics in their store and replace them with a small notions counter (sewing supplies, yarn, etc.). At this time the nearest supplies of this sort are at Mission Street, 18th and Castro, Diamond Heights or West Portal. I'm sure the local residents would appreciate this, and business would be served also.

Secondly, I've been a resident on Clipper Street since 1973, and I have a growing concern over the traffic congestion, in particular the huge trucks that lumber up and down Clipper—shaking the houses, rattling the windows and narrowly missing the parked cars. The sign at Church and Army directs through-traffic to Clipper, specifying no trucks over three tons.

I know many of the trucks are beyond the weight limit, and they are too wide and heavy to traverse this street. With a school at Clipper and Noe, it's potentially dangerous. Several trucks have lost their brakes, lives were lost and extensive damage done. The residents find it hazardous to back their cars out of driveways and garages, and crossing the street is a real challenge, especially for small children or the elderly and the disabled.

The large trucks could be routed over Bosworth Street or out over Market. These streets are broad and the hill (grade) is gradual when the trucks are bound for Diamond Heights.

Hopefully it won't take another accident or a tragedy to get something done about this problem. This is a lovely part of the city, and every effort should be made to keep it that way.

Kim Bullis
Clipper Street

LETTERS 25¢

In Defense of Methner's Anti-Litter Campaign

Editor:

I am sorry to read that Fred Methner's activities to keep Noe Valley free from litter and graffiti are not welcome by some members of the community. In recent months, I have been working with Fred on occasional weekends cleaning up the neighborhood. Despite Cyra McFadden's perception [Letters to the Editor, April 1988], we are not trying to stamp out free speech or prevent the posting of community service notes. Rather, we are neighborhood residents incensed by the lack of respect for public and private property and the clutter of litter and outdated posted bulletins.

Over the last few months, I have noticed that some people regard our efforts with curiosity, many others with support. It is not uncommon for someone driving by to stop to make a donation to further our efforts. This money is turned over to our sponsoring organization, the East & West of Castro Street Improvement Club.

No, Fred is not a "one-man community standards board," he is merely an individual who works hard to help maintain the much-loved appearance of our neighborhood, with the support of a neighborhood organization.

Dave Simon
23rd Street

Just Tear Down the Outdated Posters

Editor:

I agree with Cyra McFadden's assessment of Fred Methner. By tearing down people's notices, he is imposing his style of censorship on the community.

The problem is not simply signs around the neighborhood, as Mr. Methner would have us believe. The problem is actually *old* signs around the neighborhood that have long since served their purpose and clutter the place up. However, Mr. Methner does not seem willing to make that distinction.

Mr. Methner and his band apparently walk around these streets often, if not daily. With a little more effort he could tear down the old signs and leave the new ones up for a week. If that is too much trouble for him, people could date their signs, and then he would have no excuse to tear them down.

Fred Methner is not only interfering with people's right to publicize a lost pet or an event or a garage sale. He is also interfering with my right to find out about things around the neighborhood that might interest me.

Jim Willson
Chattanooga Street

Parental Consent Law Intimidates Teens

Editor:

As a woman and a supporter of the Committee to Defend Reproductive Rights (CDRR), I am writing to protest publicly the passage of a law requiring women under 18 to seek parental consent before having an abortion. I appeal to all pro-choice supporters to speak out against this attack on young women's rights.

This law, passed ostensibly to increase communication between teenagers and parents is a nice idea, but look at the risks of "legislated communication":

- Teens wait until late in their pregnancies to obtain abortions. Another obstacle in a young woman's path as she struggles with decisions about an unwanted

pregnancy may cause a delay that results in an unnecessarily dangerous abortion.

- According to national surveys, many teens who don't tell parents about pregnancies come from dysfunctional families where coerced communication about unwanted pregnancies could be harmful—physically and emotionally—to the teenager.

- Between 1979 and 1980, Alan Guttmacher Institute interviewed 2,400 unmarried teenagers. Twenty-three percent said they would not use abortion services if parental consent were required. Nine percent said they would attempt self-induced, illegal abortions rather than tell their parents. This is substantial evidence that parental consent and notification laws can lead teenagers to desperate acts that endanger their lives.

Ultimately this law intimidates and coerces young women to bear children against their will. It is a woman's constitutional right regardless of age to control her own body. We all need to protest the violation of this right by the California Legislature.

Arlene Stein
Coalition for the
Medical Rights of Women
2845 24th St.



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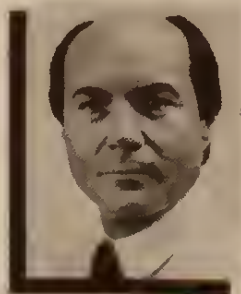
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Two Cottages Marked for Demolition

By Denise Minor

A five-month demolition moratorium went into effect Feb. 1, so no more houses will be torn down until at least mid-summer, right?

Wrong—because some demolition permit applications were filed before the moratorium was passed. As a result, two small neighborhood cottages, one on 20th Street and another on Noe, will fall to the wrecker's ball as soon as their owners' development plans are approved by the city.

That's the reason there was no cease-fire in the war between Noe Valley's preservationists and developers last month.

On the northern front: realtor Ed Mullens of Mullens and Company wants to replace his 1885 cottage at 3855 20th St. with a four-story, three-condominium building.

"This little cottage survived the earthquake and the fire afterwards, but it can't survive Ed Mullens," said attorney Claire Pilcher, a longtime neighborhood activist and member of Friends of Noe Valley. Pilcher represents Virginia Sterns of 3851 20th St., who is fighting Mullens through the review process of the city Planning Commission.

"Our chances of saving the building from being demolished are next to zero," said Pilcher. "We had the Heritage Foundation and the Landmarks Advisory Board look at it, and it's not noteworthy enough."

In order for a city building to be protected under Proposition M, it must have outstanding design features or special historical significance, she said. The cottage, which faces Dolores Park, is "nice, but no cigar."

Sterns is not as worried about the impending loss of the small Victorian next door as she is about the four-story structure that will take its place.

"When I saw the plans, I suddenly realized it was going to be a full 40 feet tall and of a very stock design," said Sterns. "It would cut off the light we get on one side. My husband and I are artists. We bought this house partly because it gets so much light."

Sterns is also unhappy with the condos' facade, so she hired local architect



It's not fancy, but this cottage at 3855 20th St. has been witness to a century's worth of history. Though neighbors are trying to save it, the house will probably be torn down and replaced by a three-condominium building sometime this summer. PHOTO BY LORENE WARWICK

Al Lanier to come up with some new plans—ones that would shed more light on her house—and presented them to Mullens in an April meeting.

"He was completely unresponsive," she said. "He was very determined to keep certain features."

"This building is being constructed totally for speculative purposes," she further lamented. "Then he [Mullens] will sell it. We are the ones who have to live with the results."

Mullens defended both the design and his right to build any size building he wants on the property he has owned for eight years, as long as it meets city height requirements. "It is an Edwardian-style, with redwood siding. It is a Cadillac of buildings," he said. "And I don't think it will affect the light she [Sterns] receives."

As for the existing cottage, it has been vacant for two years and is not in rentable condition, Mullens said. He added that previous tenants had wreaked havoc on the interior and that refurbishing the house as a rental wouldn't be worth the expense.

"It would take too much to fix it up," he said. "So rather than do that, then later deal with rent control, I decided to build more housing."

Sterns claims that most of the neighbors are taking her side, and many have

signed a petition against Mullens' design. The Planning Commission has scheduled a May 19 discretionary review hearing of the case.

Just a few blocks west, a controversy is brewing over a four-story, two-apartment building that Eugene Wollak wants to erect in place of a little orange cottage at 832 Noe St. near Hill Street.

The proposed structure "really is a disgraceful building," said John Giusti, who lives across the street at 845 Noe. "It is an ultra-modernistic building, completely out of character with the neighborhood."

"All the homes on Noe are two stories at the most," he continued. "This will be a full three stories above a garage."

Giusti acknowledges that the block has an apartment house built during the 1960s that is as high as the structure Wollak proposes and of similar design. But he does not think the one throwback on the street should set a precedent. "The mentality of the sixties should not be duplicated."

Giusti is the author of a petition, signed by 85 neighbors, which opposes Wollak's design. The Planning Commission was scheduled to review the plans at an April 21 meeting.

Wollak, whose family has owned the property for 60 years, is angry that his

neighbors believe they can decide what fits and what doesn't in Noe Valley. It's all a matter of taste, he said.

"I know neighborhood character every bit as well, in fact better, than they [his opponents] do, because we've been here for 60 years," he said. "For them, as newcomers and outsiders, to dictate to me what fits is hypocritical."

Many of those who have protested his design are renters, he claims, and two others have sold their homes and moved away. "Renters have signed it [the petition], and I don't think the opinion of someone here today, gone tomorrow, should count as highly as someone who has lived and owned property here for years."

Because of the battle over his building plans, the house has remained empty for a year, he said, at a great expense to his family. In his view, this is just the kind of headache that discourages developers from building new housing in San Francisco, something the city sorely needs.

Once his plans are approved, Wollak intends to live in one of the two units and rent the other out. "Do they even oppose rental housing?" he asked.

Joe O'Donohue, president of the Residential Builders Association of San Francisco, says he's "a firm believer that whatever is built should be pleasing to the eye," but he sympathizes with Wollak. He's convinced that many residents have jumped on the anti-development bandwagon without giving new designs serious consideration. "I know that some people have signed the petition against Mr. Wollak without even seeing the plans," he said.

"I looked at the plans myself, and it's hard to visualize," he noted. "I advised him [Wollak] to illustrate it so we can see what it's going to look like."

But David Fagerstrom of 21st Street thinks he has a pretty good idea what Wollak wants to do. "I'm an architect, and I can see from the plans that it's going to be very ugly," he said. "It's a stucco box with great big cheap aluminum windows."

Architect Lanier is critical of the plans for both of the disputed buildings, as well as many of the designs currently being submitted to City Hall.

"It's a grave problem," Lanier said. "Developers typically come into the Planning Department with inadequate plans," which city planners are then forced to tinker with until they've met the zoning criteria and satisfied owners and neighbors.

"But how can we make a silk purse out of a sow's ear?" □



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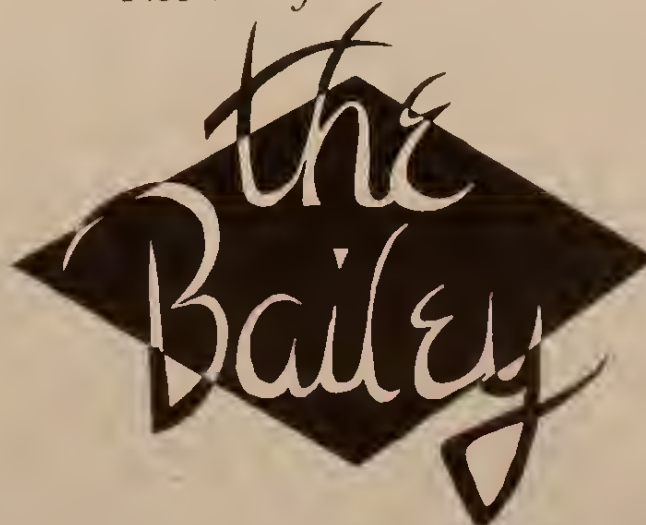
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• Poop on Pigeons •

Continued from Page 1

tion booming." And the greater the number of pigeons, the more poop on houses, sidewalks, and cars, where if it's not washed away immediately, it will eat through the paint.

Many residents around St. Paul's Church on Church Street near 29th confirmed that around five o'clock each day hundreds of pigeons gather on the telephone wires near the church to wait for the Pigeon Lady. The birds then follow her on her route along Church towards 27th Street.

"The building at 27th and Church [part of the Pigeon Lady's daily tour] is infested with pigeons, and the sidewalk is a slimy mess on wet mornings," Sylvia Powell wrote in a March 26 letter to the Voice.

But the pigeons have a friend in Betty Allen, who has lived on Church Street for

over 30 years and doesn't mind the mess the birds make. "Why do they complain so much about the pigeons?" she asks. "St. Paul's Church is so beautiful at five o'clock when they come in! We have so many other problems in this city. And don't we all make messes, so long as we eat?"

Feeding pigeons on the sidewalks, streets, or highways in San Francisco is illegal under Section 486 of the Municipal Code, although no one is sure whether there has ever been a pigeon feeding prosecution. The ordinance has been on the books since 1964, but, says Charles Haines, a supervisor in the District Attorney's Office, "We haven't really had a lot of experience with it."

One pigeon feeder, who wished to remain anonymous, said she could trace her feeding of Noe Valley's pigeons back 40 years, to when her mother would leave crumbled bread for the birds every morning before boarding the streetcar for work. "I don't understand why you can feed stray dogs or cats but you can't feed

pigeons—as long as you're feeding them what the SPCA says won't hurt them," she said.

The San Francisco Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals says it receives one to two calls a week from home or business owners asking how to drive the pigeons away from their property. They suggest several humane methods of discouraging pigeons from roosting on one's home: put chicken wire (not nails) over window sills, hang noisy wind chimes or strips of foil to rattle the birds' nerves, or post a silhouette of a hawk, the pigeon's natural predator, in windows.

In McDonald's view, however, an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of pigeon droppings. "Please think before spreading crumbs or seeds," she asks her neighbors. "If your children want the experience of feeding animals, I highly recommend the San Francisco Zoo's petting zoo."

The Pigeon Lady was unavailable for comment. □



Homes of Charm co-owner Sylvia Powell snapped this photo of Noe Valley's "Pigeon Lady" walking up 28th Street after she sprinkled seed for her feathered friends.

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Three Residents Start Up Upper Noe Neighbors Group

By Regina Starr Faustine

You might think that with Friends of Noe Valley, the East & West of Castro Club, and the fledgling Noe Valley Neighborhood Association, Noe Valley has an overabundance of neighborhood groups.

But three residents of the southern or "upper" part of Noe Valley have found plenty of interest in forming an organization that would focus mainly on their neck of the woods—the hilly area bounded by 28th and 30th and Dolores and Diamond streets.

"When one group covers as large an area as Noe Valley, it becomes too diffuse," said Sue Bowie, a 30th Street resident who has been active in tree planting and other open space projects since she moved here 10 years ago.

Bowie and two neighbors, Janice Gendreau and Martha Mitchell, founded the Upper Noe Neighbors this spring because "upper Noe Valley has its own specific issues, and we are more motivated to do something when we can work on those issues."

More than 50 residents showed up at Upper Noe Neighbors' first meeting, held March 10 at Buena Vista School on Noe near 30th, to identify those issues and establish committees on airport noise, demolition and building permits, neighborhood nuisances, tree planting and maintenance, city services, and crime and safety.

Even though upper Noe Valley covers only about 10 square blocks, there is a 300-foot rise in elevation from one end to the other, and residents' concerns varied according to their geographical location.

"People on the hill are more interested in open space issues, and people down the hill care more about crime and safety," said Gendreau, a 28th Street resident for the past three years.

Those living on and around Sanchez

and Church streets expressed apprehension about the vandalism potential caused by kids hanging out late at night near the Upper Noe Recreation Center, she said. Their neighbors in the Billy Goat Hill area (30th and Laidley) were big on tree plantings and park renovation.

Gendreau had prepared a handout on "Who to Contact About What," however, that was helpful to all those who attended the meeting, no matter what part of the neighborhood they came from. (See box, this page.)

Open space and tree plantings were what originally brought the organizers of Upper Noe Neighbors together. Last fall, while helping Friends of the Urban Forest plant more than 120 trees throughout upper Noe Valley, Bowie discovered that many of her neighbors were bothered by an increase in air traffic noise.

Around the same time, she made the acquaintance of Grace Stevenson, then in her 80s, who was a founding member of the original Upper Noe Neighbors, a residents' organization that thrived in the '40s and '50s. The group disbanded 10 years ago, and discussions with Stevenson on its long history sparked the idea in Bowie to revive Upper Noe Neighbors.

Bowie—together with Gendreau, whom Bowie met through neighborhood plantings, and Mitchell, a third-generation upper Noe resident living on Noe Street—talked up the idea of a new group with other neighbors and distributed flyers door-to-door about the organizational meeting.

Because of the high attendance at the March 10 meeting, Bowie, Gendreau, and Mitchell have planned a second meeting for May 11, 7:30 p.m., at the Upper Noe Recreation Center, on Day Street near Sanchez.

A representative from the police department's SAFE Project will give a talk on how residents can better protect themselves against car thefts and break-ins through a neighborhood watch program.



Founder Sue Bowie (right) and more than 50 Upper Noe Neighbors showed up at the group's first organizational meeting March 10 at Buena Vista School. PHOTO BY IRENE KANE.

And the meeting agenda will also feature an open space topic: the replacement of oversized trees planted between 29th and 30th streets along Castro.

"People on the steep side of Castro want the trees replaced with smaller ones," Gendreau explained. "But to keep the area looking good, they would need to be replaced over time. We thought it would be helpful if a neighborhood group could reach a consensus on what to do."

Upper Noe Neighbors also plans to go over the steps necessary to become recognized as an official neighborhood organization. With that status, it can exercise more clout at City Hall, join the Coalition of San Francisco Neighborhoods, and add its voice to that of the "lower" Noe Valley neighborhood associations. □

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Trouble-shooting Those Pesky Problems

Janice Gendreau, one of the founders of the new residents' group Upper Noe Neighbors (see story, starting this page), compiled this list of "Who to Contact About What" to correct a bothersome problem in Noe Valley.

Abandoned Autos

Note the license number and street location, e.g., Noe at 28th Street, northwest corner, and call the San Francisco Police Department at 553-1623. The police should place a three-day notice on the vehicle and after three days have it towed. If there is no action within three to four days, call Lt. Newlin's office at 553-1620.

Dog Problems

According to the city code, dog owners must walk their pets on a leash and carry a "doggy bag" to pick up dog feces. Try to identify the address of the offending party or obtain a description of the dog or its license number. The law is enforced by the neighborhood police station, which is Ingleside in the case of upper Noe Valley (553-1603) and Mission (553-1544) for residents north of Army Street.

Trash

If people are unloading trash in your area, contact the police department's Litter Patrol at 553-9290. You can often identify a constant offender by any correspondence (with address) that may be in their trash. Keep this as proof of the offense for the Litter Patrol. They'll issue a large fine to the litterbug.

If you want a streetside trash receptacle, contact Scott Shaw, Department of Public Works, at 695-2013. But beware that sometimes the dumpsters have a way of encouraging trash dumping!

Crime/Safety

Call Project SAFE, at 673-7233, for information on neighborhood watch programs.

Graffiti

The best prevention against graffiti is to paint it out immediately. Graffitiists want to see their signature all over town. Taking prompt action to wipe out their scribbles will discourage them.

Street Signs

The Department of Public Works is responsible for the installation and maintenance of street signs. Call Mark Rand at 558-2096 for problems.

Letter Campaigns

Send letters to:

Chief of Police Frank Jordan
850 Bryant St.
San Francisco, CA 94103

William G. Stead
Muni General Manager
949 Presidio Ave.
San Francisco, CA 94115

Dick Evans, Director
Department of Public Works
City Hall, Room 260
San Francisco, CA 94102

And send a "cc" to Mayor Art Agnos for a prompt reply.

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Continued from Page 1

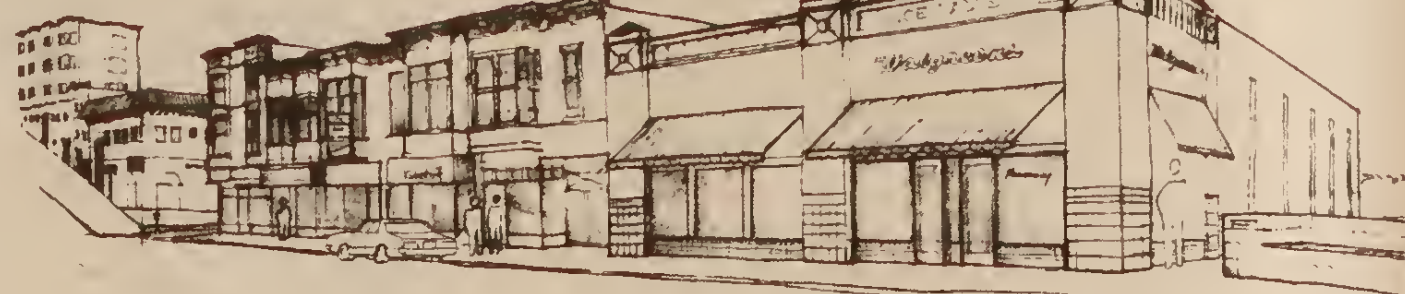
stores kept the neighborhood economically healthy by filling up the vacant storefronts left by businesses which had failed.

Even though prior to the meeting it had become clear there was no way to stop Walgreen's, some people from Noe Valley just wanted to give the Planning Commission a piece of their mind.

"When this store goes in, there's going to be a lot of dismay," said Georgia Brittan, a resident of Duncan Street. "Walgreen's will force the closing of Castro Pharmacy and Thrifty Jr., and then they won't do the high volume they expect and they'll leave. So we'll have no pharmacy."

Brittan was seconded by Friends of Noe Valley stalwart Miriam Blaustein, who warned that small neighborhood shops are "an endangered species.... The giants are moving in, and their concerns are not going to be what ours are."

Some Friends' members have split from the residents' group on this issue, however. Stefan Vergnes, who lives on Jersey Street across from the lot, gave Walgreen's management high marks. "Walgreen's has been very responsive to



This sketch of the Walgreen's that will move into the former Little Bell spot at 1333 Castro St. shows a facade that is intended to blend in with neighboring buildings. The design was created by the Zoe Street firm Kotas/Pantaleoni Architects.

neighborhood concerns and has met with the various neighborhood groups in a spirit of openness and cooperation," he said, reading from a letter he submitted to the commission.

Vergnes also criticized Stalp's plan, which asked the city to condemn the property, then develop it as a complex of senior housing and small shops. "I see no reason to meddle in the marketplace to continue to hold Walgreen's hostage based upon a vague and ill-conceived plan to convert the property to mixed use and possibly subject the city to a lawsuit," he said.

"If a private developer proposed taking

over the parking lot to put in three stories of low- and moderate-income housing, I suspect that the neighborhood would be in an uproar. Yet this is exactly the sort of plan you are being asked to consider," he continued.

Commissioner Susan Bierman spoke up at that point, the only board member to comment during the entire hearing. "I'm saddened to hear such a vehement response to a housing proposal, because it [housing] is needed," she said.

Nevertheless, the commission voted unanimously against calling for a discretionary review hearing on Walgreen's proposal, thus killing the housing plan and opening the way for the store to receive a building permit.

To Mary Ann Malinak-Magnus, current president of Friends of Noe Valley, the commission's vote came as no surprise. She had seen the handwriting on the wall for some time. "The Friends' position has been one of opposition to Walgreen's," she admitted. "However, we are pragmatists. We've signed an agreement with Walgreen's which includes a monitoring system of its developments."

Walgreen's Regional Director Bob

Arenson later explained that the store had made about a dozen concessions to the Friends, including opening the parking lot at Jersey and Castro for anyone to use (whether they shopped at Walgreen's or not), designing a building facade that blends in with the block, planting trees on the sidewalk, and agreeing not to hang advertisements in store windows. Also, the sign will be different from those at the chain's other outlets.

"Their main concern was that it would be one big plastic red sign that says Walgreen's on it," he added. "Now, it will be a metal sign, with back lighting."

Arenson said the drugstore's renovation would take about two months after the permit was issued and that the branch was heading for a September opening.

In other chain store news, Radio Shack's plans to open a store at 4049 24th St. (next to Thrifty Jr.) have been further delayed because of neighbors' objections to the proposed building facade. Responding to the complaints of some residents, one of whom called the design "garish," the Planning Commission voted to withhold a permit until Radio Shack submitted an acceptable design. □

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Prop. A Open House

Come see what "Yes on Proposition A" could mean to San Francisco students by attending an open house at two neighborhood schools this month. Voters are being asked to approve a bond issue on the June 7 ballot that would raise \$90 million for the repair of city schools, including fixing their leaking roofs, broken sinks, and boarded-up urinals.

Alvarado Elementary School, at 625 Douglass St., and James Lick School, 1220 Noe St., will be open to the public from 10 a.m. to noon on Saturday, May 21, to show you exactly where your money will go.

"Most of the schools are in ungodly shape. As a parent I find it appalling," said Chuck Lucas, a Prop. A activist. "Only ten percent of the city has kids in school, and we really need total city support for this thing to pass. There hasn't been maintenance done on most of the schools in basically ten years."

For more information on the walking tours, call Rose Barragan, principal of Alvarado Elementary, at 826-1650. To get involved with the Prop. A campaign, call Lucas at 824-4714.

Jazz Dance Recital

Ten years of study and friendship are behind an "Afternoon of Jazz with Lauren Coleman and Friends," a dance performance to be presented at the Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez St., on May 8 at 3:30 p.m. Choreographer Lauren Coleman and seven student-friends, some of whom have been taking classes with her for the past decade, will perform all the dances in this seven-piece show.

"We've been meeting [at the Ministry] every Thursday for years. We're all a group of friends who have evolved from this dance class," says Coleman. This is the first major production for Coleman, also known as "The Dancing Lady," and

SHORT TAKES



Seven women perform seven dances when Lauren Coleman (bottom) and friends present an "Afternoon of Jazz" at 1021 Sanchez St. May 8. PHOTO BY TOM WACHS

she invites all her Noe Valley family and the public at large to attend. A donation of \$3 will be asked at the door.

Memories of Everett

Everett High School at 450 Church St. is trying to locate former students and faculty to donate or loan school memorabilia to the Everett Historical Room. Photos, documents, yearbooks and clothing will be displayed at Everett's 60th anniversary celebration May 17. Those who would like to share a few memories, or just attend the celebration, can call 863-9560 and leave a message 24 hours a day.

Teaching Central America

The National Network of Educators' Committees on Central America will sponsor an all-day conference for educators in Noe Valley on May 7. Called "Teaching in Central America: Educating Our Students, Empowering Ourselves," the seminar will give teachers a rundown on resources for introducing curriculum on Central America and for working with Central American refugees in the classroom. There will be participatory workshops and opportunities to screen videos and slideshows as well.

The conference will be held at St.

Paul's High School, 317 29th St., from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. A donation of \$10 is requested. For more information, call 821-1560.

Fair Oaks Fair

Fair Oaks Street neighbors are once again banding together to hold their annual street fair. On Saturday, May 7, from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., bargain hunters can sift through five blocks' worth of garage sale treasures, food stands and raffle sales. They can also take in an organ recital at Holy Innocents Episcopal Church, 455 Fair Oaks St., at 1 p.m. (Fair Oaks is the narrow street sandwiched between Dolores and Guerrero that runs from 21st to 26th.) Call Carol Frisco at 826-4379 for more information.

Seniors Help Seniors

The Volunteer Interchange Program, a new project of 30th Street Senior Services, offers seniors a way to stay as independent and active as possible in their own homes. By participating in a computerized credit system based on hours of service, seniors age 60 and older can trade household services such as meal preparation, laundry, cleaning, personal care and errand-running.

Volunteers from all age groups can also participate by donating time without receiving assistance in return. For more details about this free program, call Patricia Vallejos at 285-5615. The senior center is located at 225 30th St. between Dolores and Church streets.

Opera Ensemble

Hoffman Street resident Ina Chalis will direct Noe Valley's own Opera Ensemble on May 7 in a performance presenting highlights from Tchaikovsky's

Continued on Page 9

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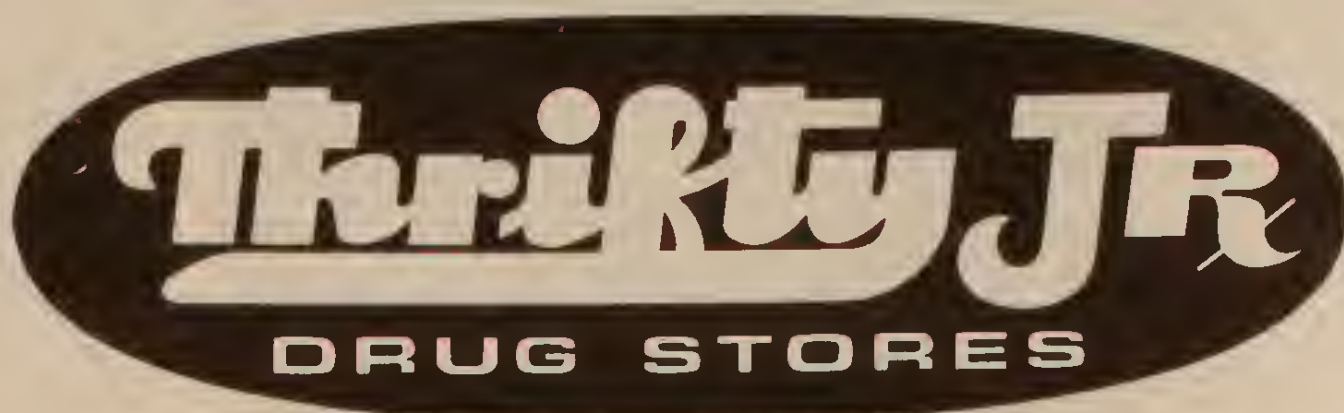
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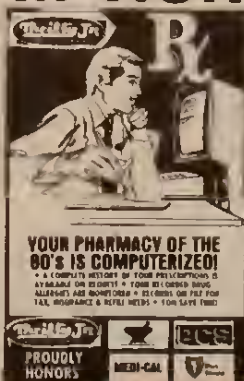
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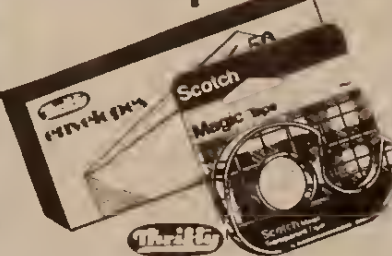
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Continued from Page 7

The Queen of Spades and *Iolanta*. The production, featuring soloists and a chorus dressed in costume, will begin at 8:15 p.m. at the Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez St. Tickets are available at Aquarius Records on 24th Street and at the door 30 minutes before the program. To find out more about this or future productions by the Ina Chalis Opera Ensemble, call Chalis at 826-8670.

Police Go Public

The keepers of the peace from Mission Station have renewed the tradition of holding monthly meetings with community groups. Police Officer Larry Ratti, the station's community relations contact, notes that the next meeting will take place May 24 at Bayview Federal Savings, 22nd and Mission streets, at 6 p.m. At this time members of residential and merchant groups from Noe Valley and the Mission can discuss neighborhood concerns with Mission Station Captain Michael Bush. Regular topics include traffic, parking, graffiti, abandoned automobiles, and relations with local schools. If you want to put in your two cents, contact Jacques Bertrand of Friends of Noe Valley at 647-8985.

Agnos Favors Housing

Mayor Art Agnos visited Noe Valley last month to speak in favor of a ballot initiative that would build moderate-income housing on city-owned property at Balboa Reservoir. He attended a meeting of the Coalition for San Francisco Neighborhoods, held April 19 at the Noe Valley Ministry and hosted by the East & West of Castro Street Improvement Club.

"Proposition L is a proposal for affordable housing," declared Agnos. "There is a desperate need for homes for people who want to live in San Francisco."

Opponents of the proposition, which was defeated at the polls last year, feel

SHORT TAKES



The Ina Chalis Opera Ensemble fills eyes and ears with a serving of Tchaikovsky at the Noe Valley Ministry on May 7. Musical Director Ina Chalis operates her company from her home on Hoffman Street. PHOTO BY BEVERLY THARP

that the Balboa Reservoir land should be held in reserve for the future expansion of City College.

'The Pickle' Returns

The Pickle Family Circus is coming to town on May 28, 29 and 30. Now celebrating their 14th season, the Pickle Family's crew of jugglers and clowns will set up camp at Glen Park, located at the end of Chenery between Elk and Bosworth streets, and will perform two shows daily at noon and 3 p.m.

Part of the proceeds from this year's circus will go to the San Francisco Council of Parent Participation Nursery Schools, which sponsors the Pickle Family Circus every spring. For ticket information call 587-8148 or 647-6567.

Mother's Day Event

The Mission Cultural Center at 2868 Mission St. (near 24th) will open its doors May 6 from 6 to 9 p.m. for a Mother's Day reception and benefit honoring Mirna Perla De Anaya. A lawyer, judge, and mother of five, Anaya escaped El Salvador with her children after the assassination of her husband, human rights activist Herbert Anaya, last October.

The program will also feature readings by Salvadoran poet Manlio Argueta, an international food buffet, and entertainment by Lichi Fuentes, Carolyn Brand, and the Plutonium Players.

Proceeds will be channeled to war-torn communities in El Salvador through the NEST (New El Salvador Today) Foundation, a nonprofit humanitarian aid organization based in San Francisco. For tickets call 864-7755.

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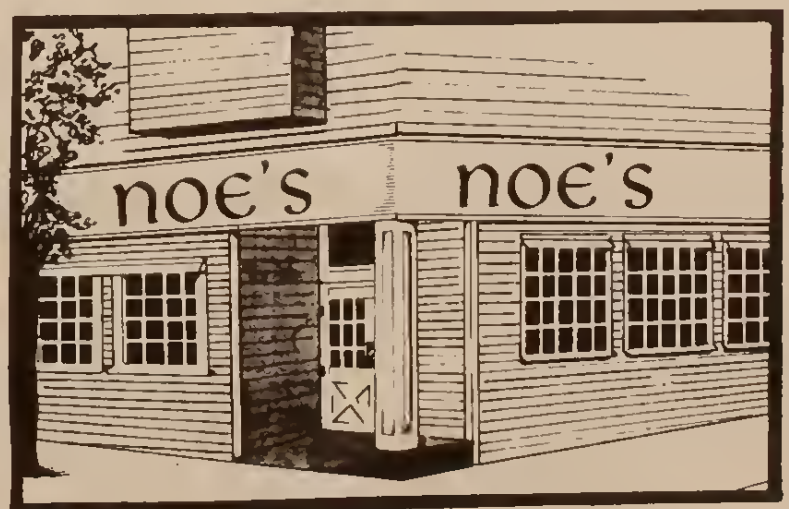
Planning Needs Names

The Department of City Planning is compiling a list of organizations for its mailing list. If you're a member or officer of a neighborhood, merchants or environmental group that is not a member of the Coalition for San Francisco Neighborhoods or the Council of District Merchants, call Lori Yamauchi at 558-6414 to add your address to the list.



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A Peek at Broughton's Pleasure Garden

Continued from Page 1

scenes, setting up a press (with Kermit Sheets) and publishing his first books of poetry.

In 1946, Broughton was introduced to Sonoma County native Pauline Kael. The now-famous film critic for the *New Yorker* was at that time a theater worker. She and Broughton set up housekeeping and produced a daughter in 1948, but broke up soon afterwards.

Broughton also hooked up with fellow writer Sidney Peterson, who convinced Broughton to join him in making a movie with a borrowed camera and a stack of Army surplus black-and-white film. Under the influence of visionary filmmaker Maya Deren, the pair of writers managed to acquire the necessary skills in the process of shooting *The Potted Psalm* (1946). The film was advertised as "the first surrealist film to be made in San Francisco," and was screened during the Art in Cinema series of the San Francisco Museum of Modern Art. Broughton describes it as "a strange kind of surrealist vision of sex and death," and notes that "it was booed at its premiere... which pleased Mr. Peterson tremendously."

An equal outcry two years later greeted the premiere of *Mother's Day*, Broughton's first solo effort. "In the forties,

during the war, 'mom' had been sacred," explains Broughton, whose light-hearted satire hardly merited such animosity.

As a result, the film was rarely seen in the U.S. for many years. The following winter, however, *Mother's Day* won a prize at an international exposition of avant-garde cinema in Belgium, where it became the subject of a seminar. This was encouragement enough for Broughton, who took up residence in Europe from 1950 to 1955.

There were more European accolades and American denigration with the release of *The Pleasure Garden*, which won a prize at Cannes in 1954. And there were "opportunities to make big movies" proffered by English interests.

But Broughton made a fateful decision against working with other people's ideas and adapting other writers' books to the silver screen. "The medium was for me a totally personal expression," he says. "And I was not interested in going into business. Business and making money are what I had escaped from, way back there."

On their occasional meetings, Kael still criticizes Broughton about this turning point. "She says, 'You made a great mistake then,'" laughs Broughton. "But I say, 'No, I didn't. To myself I was true, to being the poet.'"

Upon returning to San Francisco in 1955 and realizing that "filmmaking wasn't going on," Broughton confirmed his decision to take a break from the medium. "So I got involved in the poetry scene, which was very exciting, where I felt at home anyway," he says. To work off the debt he'd amassed in producing *The Pleasure Garden*, he once again did

theater work, where he met Suzanna Hart, whom he married in 1962. He also took up the study of Zen Buddhism because "it giggles with what is most profound."

A 15-year hiatus from filmmaking ended with the arrival of an unsolicited box of color film stock from the director of the Cinematèque Belgique, who'd been an early admirer. With a sense of obligation and gratitude, Broughton set about making *The Bed* (1968), a joyously erotic fantasy set on and around a brass bed standing in the middle of a Marin County field. The filmic romp featured older acquaintances of Broughton's (including Zen legend Alan Watts) and younger friends of cinematographer Bill Desloge, and was set to music by local composer Warner Jepson.

The Bed unexpectedly turned out to be Broughton's biggest and most lucrative success. It ran for weeks at the Surf Theatre on Irving Street, and sold like hotcakes to hospitals and growth centers, where the uninhibited celebration of old and young male and female nudity was considered therapeutic.

Laughing wickedly, Broughton recalls that "Pauline Kael said, after she saw it the first time, 'Oh, darling, it's so innocent,' as if I'd done something terribly wrong."

Since then, Broughton has found he's had to consciously avoid shop talk with Kael, "because we disagree so violently... She wants a good story and good characterization, and she completely misses the poetic thing, which is the visual experience, the elliptical quality that poetry has."

Rebounding off *The Bed*, Broughton resumed his visionary movie-making on a more or less annual basis, becoming something of a legend in the underground

film movement of the 1960s and 1970s. His work won prizes at festivals worldwide, and he picked up two Guggenheim fellowships (in 1971 and 1973).

To ensure income for his growing Marin County household (Serena was born in 1963 and Orion in 1965), Broughton took teaching jobs at San Francisco State University and the San Francisco Art Institute.

"My whole approach to teaching was just what my work was: to inspire, to celebrate, to agitate people's minds and awaken their hearts," he says. Toward these ends he "made everybody create a whole cultural experience for the rest of the class," involving gathering at ocean-side caves or getting nearly buried in the sand, and other group "rituals and myths." Broughton's classes quickly filled to capacity, leaving scores of disappointed students on the waiting lists.

Despite his popularity and productivity, Broughton found himself feeling that "I was all washed up" as he reached the age of 60. As its title implies, his *Testament* was intended as a film record of his personal history, culminating with a costumed march of Broughton and some of his students and fans through the streets of Modesto to a cemetery, in which Broughton lies down on the soil of his ancestors.

Off-screen, Broughton's marriage ended in 1975, the same year that tall, soft-spoken 27-year-old Joel Singer, a montage artist and filmmaker from Canada, entered Broughton's seminar and his heart. With little delay, the two men moved in together and began an ongoing romantic and artistic collaboration.

"I owe a lot to Joel," understates Broughton. "He renewed my life and he's

Continued on Page 11



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• Poet Broughton •

Continued from Page 10

prolonged my life, because I've had a rebirth." The couple has produced seven films over the past 12 years. They toured Europe, where many film museums bought prints of Broughton's works. During this period Broughton also wrote a slew of poems and published what he considers to be some of his most important hooks, including one (*Seeing the Light*) about filmmaking.

Moving from a heterosexual to a homosexual relationship came naturally to Broughton, who eschews the forced distinction between lifestyles as much as he does those between filmmaker and poet.

"I hate labels," he declares with uncharacteristic vehemence. "Just because I have a beautiful relationship with Joel, the most rewarding love-experience of my life, this doesn't negate the fact that I've had a marriage and three children (including one by Pauline). I think we're sexual beings and it takes all kinds of forms, and I don't see any reason to limit one's experience."

This "celebration of life and love" (in Singer's words) is expressed in *Song of the Godbody* (1977), a "landscape study" of Broughton's body, and in *Hermes Bird* (1979), Broughton's only recent solo film, which depicts a penile erection "in slow, slow motion," accompanied by a reading of poems from Broughton's *Hymns to Hermes* (1979).

Three years ago, after their return from Europe, Broughton and Singer decided to set up home and studio in Noe Valley. "I had never lived on this side of Market Street," notes Broughton. "When I grew up, you were supposed to live over there [to the north]. The south of Market belonged to the 'lower classes,' in a way that was taken for granted but never spoken.... So this is like living in one's home town but in a new place." Broughton is a daily visitor to the



James Broughton's ebullient celebration of life and love is reflected in his many short films and books of poetry, as well as in his teaching. PHOTO BY LORENE WARWICK

bookstores and cafes of 24th Street, where he's done a comparative study of tuna fish sandwiches.

What was originally the dining room in his Spanish-style 21st Street flat is now an office and film editing room, with

its own small screen. In a separate room, Singer assembles collages and photo-montages, some of which will appear in an October show at the Vision Gallery on Mission Street.

Broughton himself is putting together

a collection of the best of his writing, including some pieces that have been out of print for years. He's also working on the inevitable "memoirs and confessions," which he hopes will promote "my vision and my experience of pansexuality... because it's a liberating thing, not just to show off my own life."

After 22 books and 22 films full of free-spirited expression, Broughton regrets that "the twentieth century has been a great disappointment to me. It's gone right back to where it was when I came in. It's just as moral and stupid... and repressive." He also feels that the popularity of music videos "has usurped, if not murdered, 16-millimeter independent film, by not only taking over our tricks, but debasing them."

Broughton admits, half in jest, that he may have to switch to video himself, due to ageist attitudes on the part of funding agencies like the National Endowment for the Arts and the American Film Institute.

"I can't get grants anymore, I'm too old," he laments. "They don't think you're going to live to finish something, I guess.... It's a whole American thing, that you must encourage the young. It's not the way Europeans treat their artists; there they treat them as national treasures."

Those who realize what a treasure we have in Broughton will help celebrate his 75th birthday at the Art Institute on Nov. 10. They'll be treated to a screening of all the films on which Broughton has worked with Singer (who turns 40 on Nov. 29), including the latest, *Scattered Remains* (1988), in which "Joel's camera spins me into orbit towards whatever eternity I may be lucky to find."

Working well ahead of deadline, Broughton has already written an ode on "The Solace of Becoming 75," which he shared with the cheering throng at the Castro tribute. One line describes how Sunny Jim has been spending his golden hours: "I just take care of my perversity, practice on my essence, and allow my heart exorbitant adventures." □



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Art for Alcoholism

Noe Valley teens from the School of the Arts at McAteer High School have designed and painted a 26-foot mural for the Haight-Ashbury Alcoholism Treatment Center.

The mural is the premier effort in a new community outreach program that will feature rotating exhibits of the McAteer students' artwork at the clinic, located on Haight Street near Cole.

The students' art was officially unveiled April 20 in a ceremony celebrating their four months of work on the project, which was begun in December under the guidance of McAteer teachers Marsha Pannone and Frank Lilief. The six-panel mural can be viewed at 1698 Haight St., where it adorns the entrance, front and side of the building. □



Passersby have compared McAteer High School students' mural on the Haight-Ashbury Alcoholism Treatment Center to the work of modern master Marc Chagall. Needless to say, the center's intern counselor, Ruth Chatterton (left), and program administrator Roberta Leblang are pleased with the clinic's new image. PHOTO BY CHARLES KENNARD.

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From Woman to Woman to Nicaraguan Daycare Center

By Denise Minor

Crib mattresses, toys and diapers don't sound like the gifts most mothers would want for themselves this Mother's Day.

But they're just what the women of the Ricardo Morales tobacco cooperative in rural northwest Nicaragua are hoping for as they await the arrival of a ship laden, in part, with donations for their childcare center.

The Tequila Sunrise, which set sail April 23 from Burlingame, is carrying boxes of little clothes and playthings collected by the Bay Area chapter of a project known as Woman to Woman.

Nancy Werner, a neighborhood activist who worked hard on the Woman to Woman campaign, said that a good portion of the items on board the ship belonged to Noe Valley children. "This is the neighborhood," she added. "People here have contributed generously in our door-to-door canvassing."

Noe Valley residents also donated money to help pay for space on the ship, which Woman to Woman had to rent.

Woman to Woman, an organization with 10 core members and a 1,000-person mailing list, originally connected with the childcare center through a larger group, the Nicaraguan Women's Association. Since 1984, the project has raised

\$50,000 in cash and material donations for women in both Nicaragua and El Salvador.

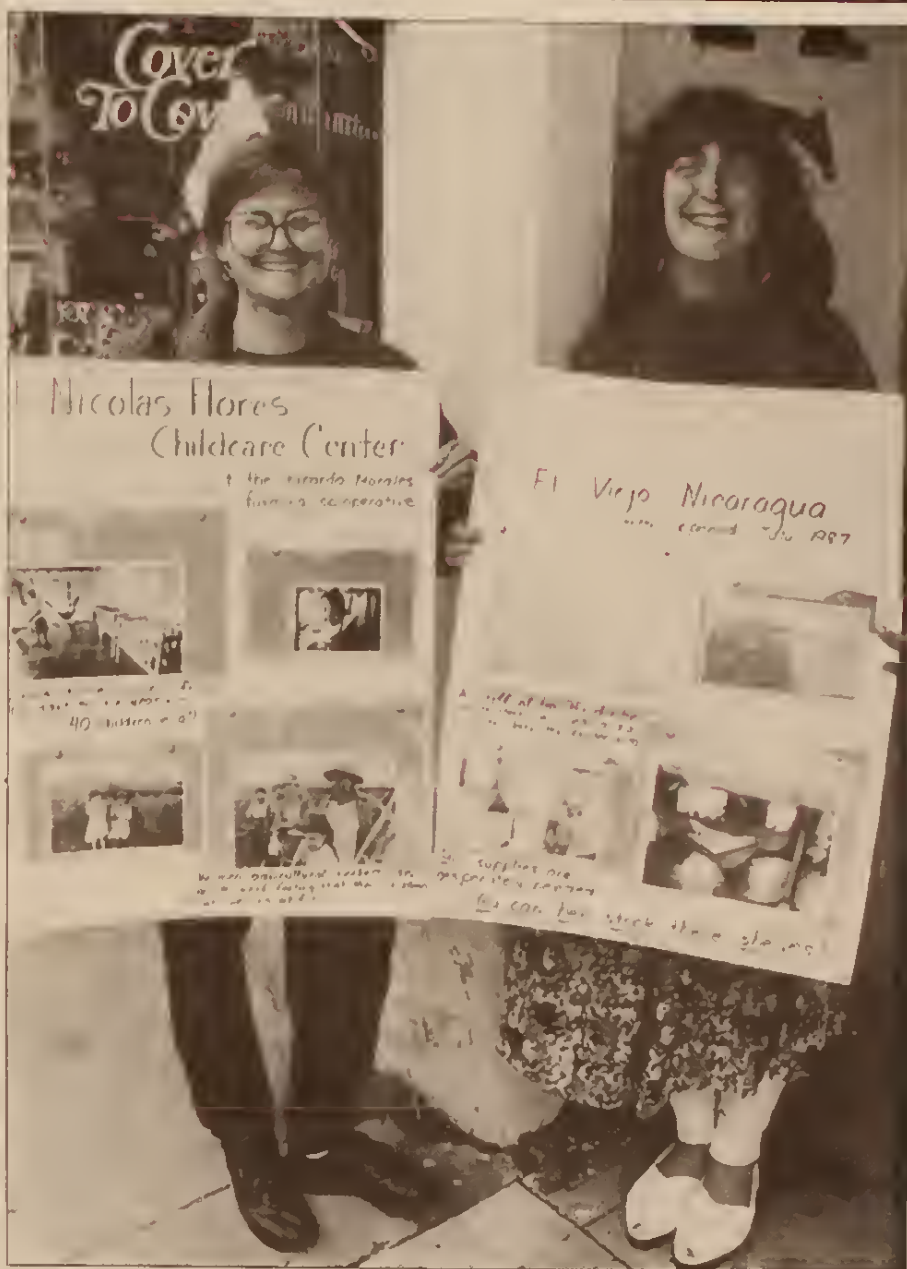
But no sooner did the ship set sail than Woman to Woman members turned around and started brainstorming on new fundraising strategies.

Werner has big plans to extend the successful project she launched this year at her son's childcare center, Friends of St. Francis on Belcher Street. There she presented two slideshows about Nicaragua and the childcare center, one tailored for parents and staff, the other for children. Afterwards, the children decorated a large box with hand-drawn pictures and colorful Nicaraguan flags.

"We put the box out in the center, and the next day it was completely full of donations," she said.

The L. Nicolas Flores Childcare Center opened at the Nicaraguan co-op in July 1987 to take care of about 40 children between the ages of a few months and 7 years. Most of them belong to families headed by single women who must do all the farm chores, which include driving the tractors as well as planting and harvesting the tobacco. Many of their husbands and sons are serving in the military or have been killed in the war, said Werner.

Woman to Woman member Kathie Klarreich, who lives on Noe Street, says the



Nancy Werner (left) and Kathie Klarreich display photos of the Nicaraguan childcare center that was the beneficiary of a Woman to Woman fundraiser. PHOTO BY PAMELA GERARD.



The L. Nicolas Flores Childcare Center serves the children of working women whose husbands and sons are struggling against the Contras in Nicaragua. PHOTO COURTESY OF WOMAN TO WOMAN.

organization is particularly indebted to businesses such as Peek-A-Bootique on 24th Street, which donated children's clothing, and Bob's Foam Company of Hayward which donated 23 small mattresses.

Klarreich hopes people will start feeling generous this Mother's Day to mothers other than their own. "Even simple things are needed at the center, like sewing machine parts and thread," she said. "The U.S. embargo against Nicaragua has severely limited their capacity to get supplies."

Pueblo to People on 24th Street, where Klarreich works part-time, is one of Woman to Woman's main drop-off points, she said.

Werner added to the list of necessities. "They need everything," she said. "The rooms are very spare. There are shelves, but with nothing on them. There are cribs, but with no mattresses."

Other recommended donations for the next shipload include: cloth diapers, baby bottles, baby and children's clothing (suitable for hot weather), first-aid kits, vitamins, ceiling fans, mosquito nets, children's books in Spanish, coloring books, crayons, pencils and toys.

Donations can be left at Pueblo to People, 3900 24th St. (near Sanchez). Checks should be made out to Woman to Woman. For more information or to get on the group's mailing list, call 420-7957.

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Here's Castro Street cable car number 103, standing a hundred years ago at its turnaround at Castro and 26th streets, with a bare Diamond Heights in the distance.
PHOTO COURTESY OF RICHARD SCHLAICH COLLECTION

A Nostalgic Ride on the Castro Street Cable Car

By Larry Beresford

Public transit in San Francisco has passed a number of milestones in the past few months. On Dec. 28 San Francisco's Municipal Railway (Muni) celebrated its 75th anniversary. Prior to Dec. 28, 1912, when Muni first began streetcar service on Geary Street, mass transit in the city (and most of the rest of the country) had been the exclusive province of private enterprise.

The 100th anniversary of cable car service on Powell Street was also observed on March 28, although that date is not the true founding of San Francisco's celebrated cable cars. The first cable car climbed halfway to the stars on Clay Street on Aug. 1, 1873.

Scotsman Andrew Hallidie, a manufacturer of wire cable, invented the cable car after observing a gruesome accident with a horse-drawn "balloon car" on Nob Hill. The horse-drawn omnibuses that dominated city transit before cable cars had an unfortunate tendency to slip off their tracks on wet days, dragging the hapless horses down the hill.

More recently, a sadder anniversary passed by unnoticed. Forty-seven years ago on April 5, 1941, the last Castro Street cable car made its final run on Castro between 18th and 26th streets. Begun in 1887 as an extension of the Market Street Railway Company's cable lines on Market, the Castro line was one of eight cable routes in the city. Only two lines remain today, both crossing over Nob Hill, and they're monopolized by the tourists.

After the earthquake and fire of 1906, a number of cable lines were converted to electric streetcars, but cable service was retained on Castro because of the steep grade of the hill separating Noe and Eureka valleys. In 1907 a new electric powerhouse and car barn for the cable line was built at Castro and Jersey streets, where the Little Bell storefront now stands.

Today's neighborhood residents may wonder why the city discontinued the Castro cable car. They can't help but imagine how romantic and charming life in Noe Valley would be if the Castro line still ran over the hill to Castro Village.

But back in 1941, after half a century of riding the cranky cars, people greeted

the Castro line's demise with enthusiasm.

John Cullen, now a retired Jersey Street resident and then a youthful reporter for various community newspapers (see "Cullings of a Neighborhood Newsman," *Noe Valley Voice*, March 1988), described that fateful day in an April 10, 1941, story in the *Eureka District News* headlined "As Hundreds Cheer, Cable Car Dies":

"The weather-stained, creaking Castro Cable was laid to rest last Sunday amid the blaring of 'Hawaiian War Chant' and the discordant mocking guffaws of the watching crowd. Draped in black, the cable was a bedlam of activity as district leaders spoke from its steps, and district children romped through its enclosed middle section—eagerly toying with the worn, yet shiny, cable grip controls."

Aside from a few scattered objections by professional loafers, Cullen reported, "Everyone was gay—overjoyed at the sight of progress grinding the familiar, homey cable line into the dust of time." A memorial wreath on the front of the car read "Sleep in Peace." Dr. Clifford Holmboe read a eulogy while a China Clipper airplane circled overhead.

In the ceremony, held at the car barn

at 26th and Castro, numerous local dignitaries welcomed the cable car's replacement—the diesel-powered bus—as a harbinger of improved, faster and more convenient service. "Let's all get behind it! Let's patronize it!" Castro Heights Improvement Club President Lester Hayes exhorted the crowd, demonstrating his high hopes for the new diesel bus line.

Today Cullen fondly recalls the Castro cable car, which had an enclosed middle section and open compartments at either end. "There was more of a friendly atmosphere on the cable car," he says. "You could get to know the operators. They would stop in the middle of the block for people running to catch the car."

The Castro cable line was crossed at 24th Street by a streetcar on what later became the 11-Hoffman bus route. These streetcars ran on 24th Street between Dolores and Hoffman from 1895 to 1946. "Several small businesses at 24th and Castro owed their lives to this crossing," and didn't survive the conversion from trains to buses, Cullen notes. "There was a barbershop as well as two bootblack stands at the corner." The 24th and Castro corner also featured a cigar and tobacco store in the old Bud's ice cream shop and the Twin Peaks Cafe next door.

Several other streetcar routes crisscrossed Noe Valley in the first half of this century, but the only one remaining today is the J-Church. The precursor of today's 26-Guerrero bus line ran as a streetcar across 30th Street from San Jose Avenue to Chenery Street, then out to Daly City. A cable line on Valencia was converted to streetcar in 1907, and then extended to 29th to Noe.

Between 1894 and the late 1940s, a Mission Street downtown commuter line also turned right on 29th and traveled west up to Noe. This streetcar witnessed a dramatic incident in 1907, in the midst of a bitter strike by transit workers against United Railroads of San Francisco, the successor to the Market Street Railway Co.

United Railroads workers struck for wages of \$3 for an eight-hour day in May of that year. The company brought in strikebreakers, and violence on both sides marked the dispute as the most violent transit strike in U.S. history. Six people died of gunshot wounds, 25 were killed in strike-related streetcar accidents, and more than a thousand others were injured, reports Noe Valley resident Bob Callwell, who recently prepared a booklet on transit history for the Muni Community Affairs Department.

In his report, titled "Transit in San Francisco, A Selected Chronology, 1850–

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LANDMARKS of Noe Valley

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The photos for this month's "Landmarks" were provided with the help of Robert Callwell of the Muni Community Affairs Department, who also assisted in the story's research. Thank you, Bob.

• Oldtime Transit •

Continued from Page 14

1987," Callwell writes that on July 20, 1907, striking workers shot at the crew of a streetcar at 29th and Noe. The car, which was immediately abandoned, broke loose and rolled down the hill, smashing into buildings on Mission Street.

Compared to the 29th Street line, the J-Church streetcar, which was inaugurated by Mayor "Sunny Jim" Rolph on Aug. 11, 1917, has had a pretty smooth ride. Like the city's other neighborhood streetcar lines, the J went underground on Market Street as the Muni Metro in 1981, and the familiar "green torpedo" streetcars were replaced by orange light-rail vehicles (LRVs).

But the J-Church line is slated for expansion in October of this year, Callwell says. New track will be laid from the current terminus at 30th and Church over San Jose Avenue to the Muni car barn at San Jose and Geneva. Once they're connected with existing streetcar track at the barn, J-Church cars will offer Noe Valley shoppers service all the way to Stonestown.

Years from today, we may look back with nostalgia to the time when the J-Church streetcar stopped at 30th Street. Now we can only guess what this latest improvement will mean for commercial life in Noe Valley and whether future generations will see it as true progress or another great loss. □

The photo at right was taken by United Railroads of San Francisco to document the company's track reconstruction on 29th Street in 1909. Two streetcar lines ran from Valencia and Mission streets up 29th as far as Noe, where a Southern Pacific Railroad trestle bridge crossed overhead. Note the familiar spires of St. Paul's Church in the upper right corner. PHOTOS COURTESY SAN FRANCISCO PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

The J-Church streetcar track was being laid through Dolores Park when the photo below was taken in 1916. An existing United Railroads streetcar track crosses on 18th Street below the tennis courts. But there were no trees yet along the footpath just west of the new tracks. PHOTO COURTESY SAN FRANCISCO PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION.



A Market Street Railway Company's electric streetcar turns the corner south onto Chattanooga from 22nd Street, circa 1885-1902. This route was eventually replaced by the H-Hoffman and 48-Quintara bus lines. PHOTO COURTESY OF RICHARD SCHLAICH COLLECTION



—They Climb Glen Craggs Because They're There—

Adventures of the Rock Spiders

By Steve Bosque

Glen Canyon Park, like all city parks, serves as a refuge for those urban dwellers in search of outdoor recreation. Strollers and hikers, softball, tennis and soccer players, and of course kids who like to swing on monkey bars, can all get a good workout down at the park, located at the end of Chenery Street and bordered by Elk and Bosworth.

But Glen Park offers more than fun and games. West of the playing fields,

beyond the Parks and Recreation center, nature lovers will discover an imposing amalgamation of rocky cliffs known as the Glen Craggs, where rock-climbing enthusiasts from all around the Bay Area practice their sport.

The Craggs are located in a rugged, half-mile-long canyon created by the once-mighty Islais Creek and bordered by steep, overgrown hillsides. Rock outcroppings protrude from the hillsides on both sides of the creek, which is now just a mere trickle. They are part of the Franciscan Formation, a huge mass of bedrock located between the San Andreas and Hayward faults. The red, brown and yellow Craggs consist of chert, a compact rock made mostly of quartz.

This 76-acre slice of the wild, declared a city park in 1922, remains much the same as it was in the time of Jose de Jesus Noe, the Mexican *alcade* who in 1845 was granted 4,443 acres of the Mission and Glen Park, including Noe Valley. Hiking trails traverse both sides of the creek, red-tail hawks sail above the eucalyptus trees, and the endangered San Francisco garter snake still slithers through the grass.

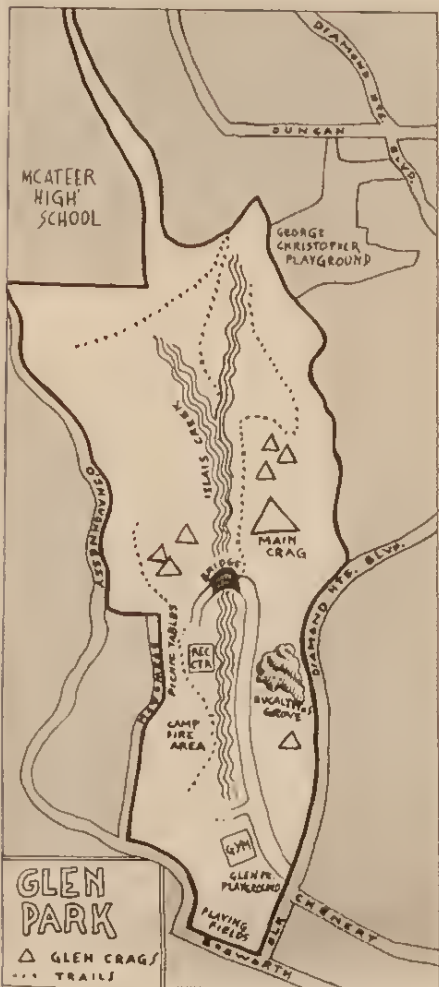
David Brower, former executive director of the Sierra Club and founder of Friends of the Earth, recalls, "Miraloma (Glen Park) was one of a series of places that the Bay Chapter [of the Rock Climbing Section of the Sierra Club] would visit. It was the only location in San Francisco that we climbed at. We would go there maybe four times a year. The Sierra Club has probably been climbing there since 1935."

Today, 43 years later, developments such as sticky rubber-soled shoes and gymnastic chalk for the hands have made the act of climbing more secure. But the chert that modern climbers lay their hands on is the same rock that Brower and his companions touched during climbing's wonder years.

"Somehow or other, the canyon has been left alone," claims Noe Valley resident Gene Foley. "The rock looks like all




Craggs regular Chuck Clance (foreground) says Glen Park has "a lot of moderate climbs, which makes it a good place for a beginner." PHOTO BY CHARLES KENNARD.



Here's a map showing the location of Glen Park's "Craggs," unusual rock formations on either side of Islais Creek.


ILLUSTRATION BY KAROL BARSKE

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• Rock Spiders •

Continued from Page 16

the other stuff in the Bay Area, except when you hang on it, it doesn't break off in your hand."

A veteran climber and instructor, Foley speaks from experience. He has sampled the stone from Marin to Monterey, and he concluded as long ago as 1970 that Glen Park had the kind of rock worth returning to. Others feel the same, judging from the number of spider-people to be found crawling all over the rocks.

Glen Park sees most of its climbing action in the months from April through November. But given San Francisco's moderate climate, "bouldering" is possible year-round, with the exception of rainy days.

While most of the cliffs are under 30 feet in height, they provide ample room for lateral climbing and short, unroped ascents called "boulder problems." Only the more challenging routes require the use of a rope for protection.

Bob Donjacour, who like most climbers is unaffiliated with any organized rock-climbing clubs or institutions, elaborates: "I haven't done a lot of the dangerous problems because I seldom bring a rope out here. I like to stay within my limits. But my friend Mark Wilford will do hair-raising problems like 'Reach for Heaven,' 30 feet off the deck with no rope and without ever having previewed the moves. Needless to say, Mark is young. He might not get to be old if he keeps it up."

The question of safety is a ticklish subject. Most climbers admit to a feeling of euphoria when dangling from an overhanging boulder without the benefit of a rope. Those sane climbers are painfully aware of the consequences that can result when "the ground comes up fast."

Chuck Clance, a Glen Crag regular, says, "At Glen Park, the rock is fairly



Voice reporter Steve Bosque is no slouch, so he made sure he had a good handhold on Glen Crag, the city's rock-climbing paradise, before writing his story last month. PHOTO BY CHARLES KENNARD

sound, and most climbers know what they're doing. There are a lot of moderate climbs, which makes it a good place for a beginner. Soloing (unroped climbing) should only be done by experts, and even then, experts can get injured."

Clance should know. Last year, while climbing unroped on a formation known as "Dead Cat Rock," he fell and shattered his ankle.

"The ironic thing is that I had a rope with me," says Clance. "I was instructing a friend, so I had a rope to safeguard that individual. I was climbing what I consider to be a moderately hard route when a handhold broke. I fell off and landed on the ghetto-plaster."

For those interested in learning the principles of rock-craft, several organi-

zations offer beginning and intermediate courses in climbing. In San Francisco contact Outdoors Unlimited-Wilderness Exchange, operating through the University of California at San Francisco, at 476-0410. California Adventures at 231 Bancroft St. in Berkeley covers the East Bay, phone 642-4000. Marin Discoveries at 927-0410 gives lessons in the North Bay.

Clance's advice to aspiring boulder climbers is: "Don't climb any higher off the ground than you care to fall."

Editor's Note: Last fall the Friends of Glen Canyon Park, a neighborhood organization dedicated to the preservation and restoration of the canyon, applied for funding to develop a Natural Resources Inventory and Master Plan. These funds, if granted, will help the Friends plan restoration projects in the park. Call Lucretia Levinger at 775-6200 for more information. □

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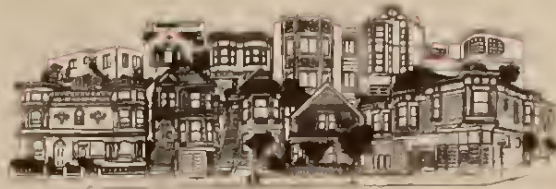
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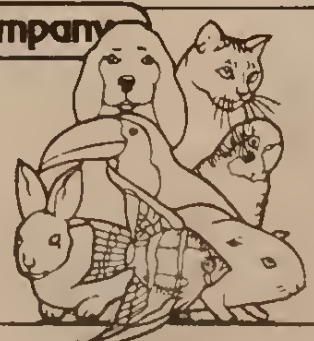
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By Mazook

NOE NEWS IS GOOD NEWS: Noe Valleon Roberta Achtenberg won her bid to fill Art Agnos' state Assembly seat for the unexpired term, beating her closest rival, fellow Democrat John Burton, in what the Noe Valley Bureau of Investigation (NVBI) has termed a "landslide."

With all 23 Noe Valley precincts in the April 12 election reporting, the vote was: Achtenberg, 1,800; Burton, 1,117; with the next nearest rival, Republican Brian Mavrogeorge, garnering 103 votes.

Over in our sister valley, Eureka, and our brother mountain, Upper Market, the combined vote was even more lopsided: Achtenberg, 3,119; Burton, 1,467.

Unfortunately, the landslide occurred only in the Noe and Eureka Valley areas. Roberta lost the rest of the 16th District to John Burton. With the turnout a mere 27.5 percent of registered voters, Burton polled 20,908 (53.2 percent) and Achtenberg 14,533 (36.3 percent).

After analyzing the election results, Roberta promptly and graciously withdrew her challenge for the seat, which is again up for grabs for the full two-year term in the June 7 primary election. Roberta then took a vacation.

According to one political analyst, Bruce Pettit (who lives at Castro near 25th), the surprise of April 12 was that "the gay community didn't come out in droves as one would have expected." Well, if enough people don't vote on June 7, maybe no one will be elected.

☎ ☎ ☎

NOE NAMEDROPS: Noe Valley's resident cartoonist, Bill Griffith, happily reports that the producers of his first movie, *Zippy Vision*, have stopped fighting. The screenplay is finally finished, the budget is just about set, the site is Benicia, and the star, playing the role of Zippy the Pinhead, is still Randy Quaid. Vanna White is *not* in the budget.

Noe Valley's resident Grammy Award-winner, vocalist Bobby "Don't Worry—Be Happy" McFerrin, quipped the show before it started when he sang the "Star-Spangled Banner" to over 56,000 people at the Giants' season opener against the Padres at Candlestick Park. The fans went nuts after McFerrin's high-pitched

and now for the RUMORS behind the news

rendition of our national anthem, and gave him a standing ovation, made easier, of course, by the fact that they were standing in the first place.

Speaking of stars, Panos' newly remodeled restaurant seems to be attracting its share. In the past six weeks, we've seen not only McFerrin, but Channel 7 newscaster Suzanne Saunders (who also lives in the neighborhood, by the way), and Robin Williams, acting wild and crazy as usual. Also spotted at Panos' were the famous chef Wolfgang Puck and the advice-to-millions columnist Abigail Van Buren, who was having a Saturday brunch. What did Dear Abby order? "Pancakes with real maple syrup and coffee, please."

☎ ☎ ☎

MORE ON THE FOOD FRONT: It looks like Noe's Bar, at 24th and Church, will finally add "& Grill" to its name and celebrate a grand opening at the end of May. The chef of this Joe's-style Italian eatery will be the semi-famous Steve Carozzi, known not only for the quality of his food, but for the vibrato in his voice when he sings over the stove.

Down Church Street at Chloe's Cafe, Steve Baker and Melanie Kang are plodding through the permit process so they can build a stove to cook dinners. Says Steve, "We started in November, we've been through health, fire and building, and now are hung up in zoning and planning." Steve cheerfully predicts dinner by June.

What's for Dessert? That's what Mervin Mark will call his new cafe on Church and 27th, so go ask him.

Bakers of Paris has joined the Downtown Noe Valley coffee derby and started



selling its own "special blend" for \$5.60



a pound, but the bakery has posted large signs recommending that customers also try the brew at the Pantry, the Courtyard Cafe, the Chef, Spinelli's and the S.F. Coffee Company. Guess they're using the same tactic that Macy's employed in *Miracle on 24th Street*.

Many folks are hoping for a miracle now that the building where Simon's Spanish Shop is located (Castro near 24th) has been sold in a probate court sale. Simon's long-term lease ran out last year, and owner Senen Simon is worried that the rent raise may force him out, after 16 years of selling burritos. "We are negotiating with the new owner," says Senen, "and I'm hopeful."

Having failed the Darwinian test, the Everyday Cafe, on Sanchez near 29th, has closed. Its building was sold to two local physical therapists, who will open a clinic offering just about the only thing this neighborhood lacks, hot packs and ultrasound.

☎ ☎ ☎

IT'S ONE MORE TIME for One More Time, the enduring secondhand store on 24th Street between Castro and Diamond. Michelle Balk recently took over the shop from Forrest DeLambert and now features next-to-new women's clothing and accessories. "We've got designer stuff from Esprit to Ferragamo to Valentino, at very reasonable prices," says Michelle. "Oh, and tell your readers—I got sizes, and we are talking 4 to 14."

New to 24th Street is a pregnancy and childbirth resource center called Natural Resources at 4081 24th St. (next to Selva Realty). Deborah Jackson and Chris Pritchard conduct pregnancy and early parenting classes in the storefront, which also has a retail shop, library, community

bulletin board and children's play space.

The owners report that their most popular class is one called "Post-Partum Drop."

Chris says they picked Noe Valley because "everyone knows that 24th Street is fertility row—young couples come to Noe Valley to have kids."

☎ ☎ ☎

COUCH POTATO UPDATE: Downtown Noe Valley video stores report that hot, hot, hot is the recent release *The Untouchables*. When that's out, people ask for *Adventures in Baby Sitting*, starring Elisabeth Shue.

Top of the pops at Streetlight Records: *Tuck and Patti*, Bay Area folks who have frequently played the Noe Valley Ministry and have now made it big on the Windham Hill label.

Over at Aquarius Records, the record that's currently flying out the door is *Spot 1019*, by a Santa Cruz group called This World Owes Me a Buzz. Also moving well is a group called Joe Cuba and the Tokyo Negroes.

The New Age music topping the charts at Star Magic is *Light of the World* by Marinite Constance Demby, who claims all of her music is channeled (à la Shirley MacLaine).

Phoenix Books and Records is selling a lot of the Cajun and Zydeco music of the late, great Clifton Chenier.

Bookwise, Cover to Cover reports you are reading (fiction) Scott Turow's *Presumed Innocent* and (nonfiction) Stephen W. Hawking's *A Brief History of Time From the Big Bang to Black Holes*.

☎ ☎ ☎

LAST BUT NOT LEAST, congrats to Alvarado Elementary School second-grader Jordana Debry, who won first place in the San Francisco Unified School District's second annual Invention Convention.

Jordana's "headband umbrella" will now go to Washington, D.C., for the national convention in June.

My favorite is the fourth grade blue ribbon winner by Noel Shankel from nearby Miraloma Elementary: a set of trainer chopsticks.

That's 30. Go Giants and bye, kids. ☐

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Noe Mothers Wending Their Way Through Childcare Maze

By Laura McHale and
Jane Underwood

When Kim Fortes discovered that the woman caring for her 18-month-old daughter had hit another child, she got fed up with trying to find someone to take over her mothering role. Forte decided to give up her job as manager of a restaurant at Fisherman's Wharf, and utilize her degree in child development instead. Now she runs her own family daycare home in Noe Valley, providing full-time childcare for six children, including her daughter Vanessa, 3½, and her 10-month-old son Michael.

"I feel I'm doing the best thing for my family," she says with pride. "It would be nice if every parent could pick the option best suited for their kids."

Maria Chin, the mother of 10-month-old Daniel, was also stymied in her initial search for childcare. "When I finally found someone acceptable to me," she recalls, "Daniel cried non-stop, all day long. She couldn't take it and quit after seven days."

Now Daniel accompanies Chin to her part-time job at Peek-A-Bootique on 24th Street. Chin says she's looking for another child to take care of, to supplement her income.

Fortes and Chin will celebrate Mother's Day on May 8 confident that they've landed the perfect childcare provider: themselves. But these two women, who were both able to quit their other jobs, are among the lucky ones. Most Noe Valley mothers need to find someone else to watch over their kids for at least



Son Daniel accompanies Maria Chin to her part-time job at Peek-A-Bootique, but not all Noe Valley parents can work things out so conveniently. PHOTO BY LORENE WARWICK

some part of the day. Whether they opt for a sitter, family daycare, a playgroup or a nursery school, parents often discover that the quest for quality childcare can be long and arduous.

"I didn't know how to go about looking for childcare at first," reflects Noc Val-leon Barbara Wolz, mother of 3-year-old twins and a 10-month-old baby. "I came from a family where the mother stayed at home, so I had no idea what my childcare needs were—how many hours, how many days."

While her twins were still babies, Wolz decided to look for a sitter to come into her home, but she didn't have a clue

as to "how other women went about it, what my resources were," she said. "Finally I sat in front of the phone hook and started calling nanny agencies, but they wanted a month and a half of my salary, and I didn't know who to trust. After that, I started calling social services agencies and churches."

Eventually Wolz found her babysitter, and later shifted to part-time family daycare. But she recalls that during the process of looking, "I felt constant uncertainty. I had no contact with other mothers. It was difficult."

Marilyn Leoncavallo also thought she wanted a sitter, someone "who was

caring, responsible, nurturing, and interested in [her child] and his development—someone with ideas I could be open to," she says. But it took interviewing umpteen applicants before Leoncavallo finally scored a winner.

"I saw my son fall in love with this woman," she says. "His face lit up when he saw her. She made him feel loved and encouraged him to love." Unfortunately, Leoncavallo's sitter gave up babysitting to take another job, and Leoncavallo found herself back at square one. She decided at that point to join a parent-run

Continued on Page 21

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• Childcare Woes •

Continued from Page 20

playgroup.

Nelly Reyes-Rosenberg's experience is also typical. "When I was looking for daycare for Julian," she says, "I got 30 to 40 names from the Childcare Switchboard. I liked three or four of them, and only two had room. It took me four months."

Trudi Richards, mother of three, recommends getting referrals from friends. She found childcare for her toddler son through talking to other parents at her daughter's grammar school. "I trust my friends a lot more than any agency," she says.

Richards' approach rates high in Noe Valley, where networking among mothers has become essential. Friends' recommendations, however, don't help much if hoards of parents are competing for scarce childcare slots.

"Every single school, even the ones I think are disgusting, have waiting lists a mile long," said Andrea Massar, who has a 3½-year-old and an infant to look after.

The fact that most providers are geared toward full-time care can also cause frustration. "I'm committed to a part-time, flexible schedule. My priorities are my children," says Luita Persyko, the mother of two children ages 7½ and 11. "There's not a lot of flexibility in childcare, and at Alexis' school the daycare cuts off at fifth grade."

Mother Dafna Wu, who's a fulltime student, notes that many childcare programs seem unaware of the rise in single-parent and two-career families. "A lot of them assume one parent is at home all the time and can pick the child up in the middle of the day, or can drop work to come in and handle a problem that comes up," Wu observes.

Money is another big issue for childcare seekers. "What I pay would be too expensive full-time, but since Lukas' dad takes care of him part of the time I'm at



Finding appropriate childcare for her 3-year-old twins and 10-month-old baby was a confusing ordeal for Barbara Wolz, but she finally landed a babysitter, then switched to a family daycare situation. PHOTO BY LORENE WARWICK

work, it's affordable," says Eve Tarquino. "If we had to pay for full-time care, it would be hard on me, but I also feel that daycare workers deserve it—they work so hard."

"Of all the professions, daycare people are paid the least," points out Suzy Partier, a public relations writer and mother of two boys. "It's important to have them be paid more, so that daycare is looked upon as a real profession and not just a sleazy babysitting operation."

Partier isn't the only mother with a suggestion on how childcare can be improved. Barbara Barnett, a mother and part-time piano teacher, maintains that "if the Childcare Switchboard could get more funding, childcare providers could reach out more by advertising in local papers or even flyers."

"Find out who they are, train them properly, and give them adequate sala-

ries," advises Luita Persyko. "There should be city-sponsored or community-sponsored daycare training programs. These could encompass family daycare and preschools."

Donna Theisen would like to see more employer-based daycare. "It would be great if my hospital had daycare, because the hospital is open seven days, 24 hours a day," she says. "I could stop in at dinner time to see Josh. But for small employers this would not be feasible, and that's where the city should step in."

Tax accountant Jennifer Viereck, whose 8-year-old son attends a "wonderful" after-school program at Glen Park Elementary, agrees with Theisen about the need for on-site daycare, but also expresses reservations.

"They could become very regimented and have too much to do with company policy," she claims. "Being dependent

upon your employer for childcare could make it difficult to speak out and express yourself freely."

Viereck suggests employer-subsidized care as one alternative to employer-run care. She also suggests checking out all possible tax breaks related to childcare.

Maria Chin is for tax breaks, too, but feels that current tax laws aren't expansive enough. "They ought to give tax breaks to parents who stay home and care for their kids," Chin argues, "not just to parents who pay for daycare or for people who provide it."

Some parents feel that more parent-run playgroups or nursery schools should be organized. "You can always find someone to take care of kids, but not exactly the way you want," explains Nelly Reyes-Rosenberg. Both Rosenberg and mother Andrea Massar would be happy to establish their own co-ops, provided they had government assistance.

"I would try to get space in buildings like the empty Little Bell," says Rosenberg. "If the community could get together to do cooperatives, it would be very good. It would work out for many people who are part-timers... if the city would give us the space."

"If there were space," concurs Massar, "I know of six parents who'd be interested in doing a co-op."

Trudi Richards says her dream would be to create a community-based co-op that would go from infancy through elementary school—an "extended family situation." But the next best thing, she concludes, would be to elect people to local offices who are involved in groups that "care about human needs, like the Green Party."

"Parents should get together and get something on the ballot!" says Wolz with conviction.

In the meantime, most childcare seekers settle for the childcare that comes closest to their ideals. Perhaps Viereck sums it up best: "Usually you have to sacrifice in one area to get what you want in another." □

Some Tips on the Nurturing Network

Here's a partial list of childcare programs and parent resources in and around Noe Valley, recommended by some of the moms who have already made the rounds.

Afterschool Programs

Mission YMCA, 586-6900
Buena Vista Annex, 821-1852
Jamestown Community Center,
647-6274

Second Community, 661-2555
Glen Park School, 469-7928
Douglass Park, 558-4837

Parent Participation

Cooperative Nursery Schools

Glenridge Cooperative Nursery School,
586-2771
Noe Valley Nursery School, 647-2278
Rocky Mountain Participation Nursery
School, 552-2929

Licensed Center-Based Nursery Schools

Buen Dia Family School, 431-3535
Eureka Learning Center, 821-3997
Felicity Montessori School, 584-3875
Katherine Michiels School, 821-1434
Leaps and Bounds, 647-1517
A Child's Garden Preschool, 333-9169

Licensed Family Daycare

Beth and Mandy Sargent, 821-3997
Sandra Wren, 922-2602
Stanene Gospel, 386-5546
Helen Paulson, 566-2905
Ann Scaff, 282-5650
Cynthia Nicola, 647-5300

Parent Resources

The Childcare Switchboard, 864-1234
Parents Place, 931-WARM
Natural Resources, 550-2611

Bulletin Boards

Natural Resources, 4081 24th St.
Kidstuff, 1307 Castro St.
Small Frys, 4066 24th St.
Peek-A-Bootique, 3915 24th St.



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Butter Swirl	Rum Raisin
Coffee Bean	Strawberry
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Cookie Milk Chocolate	Vanilla
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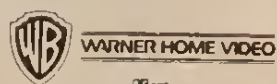
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By Jane Underwood

Baby Allison Anne Menzimer rises at the crack of dawn and gets going. No changing tables or highchairs for this 10-month-old girl—they cramp her free and easy style, says her mother, Meg Griffith.

Born on June 23, 1987, at 1:10 p.m., Allison, aka "The Doodle," turned out to be 7 pounds, 11 ounces of "high energy." "She's a character," says her dad, Robert Menzimer, a 42-year-old telecommunications executive. "And she attracts attention all the time. At Bell Market she'll sit up in her stroller like she's leading a band, then burst into uncontrollable laughter. She's an incredible face-maker, too."

Mom says Allison's lively nature was inherited from Bob's side of the family. But her "huge gray-green eyes," interjects Dad, "are definitely her mother's."

Pre-Allison, the Menzimers, who met when Meg was "the girl next door," danced around the issue of having children for quite a while, says Bob. But they both love kids, so after nine years together and eight years on Dolores Street, the couple decided "it was just time."



Bob, Meg and 10-month-old Allison Anne Menzimer. PHOTO BY LORENE WARWICK

Once a workaholic, Meg, 35, now makes the Doodle her top priority. Although she has to juggle mothering with a demanding job as a media planner at an ad agency, Meg says. "Bob and I work more as a team now, and we do more planning together. . . I didn't realize how much parenting would change my life, but I was also surprised at how intensely you love your child."

"It's terrific, and we're both very happy," Bob grins. "Of course, we're tottering on the brink of complete disintegration, but we're learning that life is just sort of like that!" □

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• MORE Books to Read •

Here's a sampling of new books at the Noe Valley Library, with short descriptions provided by librarians Roberta Greifer and Debby Jeffery. The branch is located at 451 Jersey St. near Castro; phone 285-2788.

Adult Fiction

The Butcher's Theater by Jonathan Kellerman, author of *When the Bough Breaks*, features a serial killer on a rampage in the Holy City of Jerusalem.

Emperor of the Air by Ethan Canin is a collection of nine exquisitely crafted stories, many of which are set in California.

Green City in the Sun by Barbara Wood is a saga depicting the struggle between two families in Kenya, one white and the other black.

Mrs. Caliban by Rachel Ingalls is the haunting story of a woman who uses fantasy to help her cope with her husband's unfaithfulness.

Winner of the 1987 Booker Prize, *Moon Tiger* by Penelope Lively presents the inner life of a woman reliving an adventurous and romantic past.

Yellow Raft in Blue Water by Michael Dorris portrays three native American women in a novel that is both powerful and moving.

Adult Nonfiction

Buy Me! Buy Me! by Joanne Oppenheim describes a variety of toys for children from infants to 11-year-olds.

Daddy's Girl by Clifford Irving explores the Campbell murder case, a double family murder that remained unsolved for two years.

The Dark Summer by Gene Smith graphically details the events, both small and large, that led to the outbreak of World War II.

Falling Through Space by Ellen Gilchrist is the award-winning novelist's humorous account of growing up—Southern style.

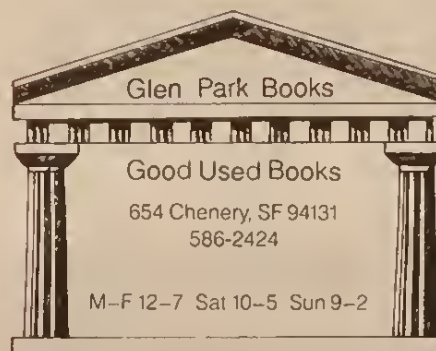
A Mind of Her Own by Susan Quinn is the first full-scale biography of Karen Horney, the feminist psychoanalyst whose views challenged Freud's.

Salad Days by Douglas Fairbanks, Jr., an autobiography of the film star, recreates the Hollywood of the 1920s and 1930s.

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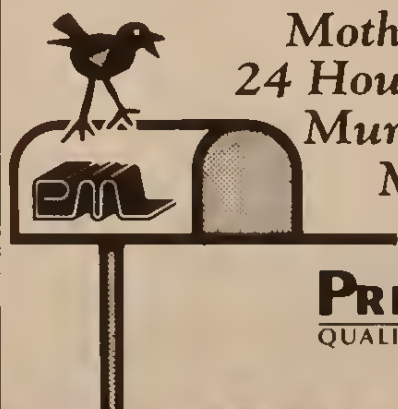
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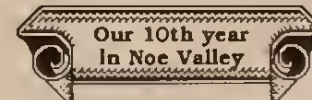
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Is the Noe Valley Library an Endangered Species?

By Katie Monagle

With the city's \$172 million budget deficit looming, no one knows what the future holds for the Noe Valley Library. But Noe Valley residents are prepared to fight to keep their local branch... again.

The public library system is facing possible cuts in funding of anywhere from 5 to 20 percent of the present budget.

"We really don't know what's going to happen at this point," admits City Librarian Ken Dowlin. But he noted that since the library system was already operating very close to the margin, even a five percent reduction would probably mean closing some branches.

Dowlin assured residents that before any changes to the library's current budget of \$18.6 million became official, the community would be asked to voice their opinion at a public hearing before the San Francisco Library Commission.

Hoffman Street resident Sally Brunn, who participated in a successful effort to save the Noe Valley Library eight years ago, doubts that Noe Valley will be the first branch cut. But "we're worried about the whole system," she said, speaking as a member of the group Keep Libraries Alive.

Keep Libraries Alive, a nonprofit organization that lobbies at both state and local levels, met with Dowlin in March to discuss what advocates of the library should be doing in light of upcoming budget slashing.

Brunn said Dowlin advised the group "to sit tight and wait for more information about what these cuts will entail, rather than 'suiciding' by sending all of us library supporters to harass the mayor" prematurely. "When and if the need arises" and should the Noe Valley branch be threatened, she promised, "we'll go all out."

At the request of the mayor's budget office, the library in March submitted separate proposals for 5, 10, 15 and 20 percent reductions in its citywide budget, along with an itemized description of

costs and services.

One alternative to closing branches would be reducing hours at all branches, noted Boh Campbell, a Noe Valley resident who is also the mayor's budget director. But this would not be very cost-efficient, he said, because it would necessitate complicated part-time schedules for employees and make library hours even more inconsistent and confusing to the public.

If branches do need to be closed, the mayor's office said it would leave the decision of which ones to close mostly in the hands of library management.

According to Dowlin, the criteria for determining which branches would get the ax include volume of circulation, the cost per item circulated, the size of the branch, and its proximity to other branches. "We would try to proportion [budget cuts] geographically, as well as according to what kind of facilities" exist at a particular site, he said.

Though not considered to be a particularly small branch, the Noe Valley Library, located at 451 Jersey St. near Castro, is close to three other branches, the Glen Park, Eureka Valley and Mission libraries. The Glen Park and Eureka branches are small and medium in size, respectively. But the Mission Library, on 24th Street near Valencia, is a "super" branch with lots of books, staff and activities.

The Noe Valley Library, open Tuesday through Saturday, employs two librarians, one library clerk, and three part-time pages.

One of the first ways the local branch could feel the crunch is in the numbers of new books coming in, said Robert Greifer, head librarian at the Noe Valley Library since June. With more severe cuts, the materials budget, staffing and library hours could suffer, she said.

Greifer is not anxious to see the community in an uproar at this early stage, however. "Like everyone in the library, we do not know where the cuts are going to be made. I think it would be better to



Noe Valley neighbors are prepared to go to battle one more time, if need be, to save their spacious library on Jersey Street. Pictured from left, to right are the present library staff: (back row) page John Kohler, head librarian Roberta Greifer, and library technician Ed McDevitt; (front row) page Lisa Glicksman and children's librarian Debby Jeffery.

PHOTO BY CHARLES KENNARD

wait until we get more information."

Until then, she advises residents that the best way to support the library is to "use it. It's free and we have lots of books, and it's a great service. But I want people to use it *all* the time, not just when we have a crisis."

Noe Valley residents share a long history of community involvement with their library, and this is not the first time the neighborhood has been faced with the prospect of budget cuts.

In 1980 and 1981 during Mayor Dianne

Feinstein's administration, the library commission contemplated closing the Noe Valley branch, or reducing it to a "reading center," which is a scaled-down library without a librarian. Community activism, in the form of a letter-writing campaign spearheaded by Keep Libraries Alive and the residents' group Friends of Noe Valley, squelched those plans.

One of the reasons Friends of Noe Valley is so protective of the branch is that during the late 1970s the organization worked hard to put in a deck and community garden at the back of the building. Long considered a landmark, the library building is a 1916 brick and terra-cotta structure designed by City Architect John Reid. □

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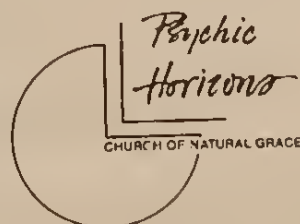
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MAY 5: Attend a forum on lesbian mother-daughter relationships led by Louise Ralkin, editor of *Different Daughters: A Book by Mothers of Lesbians*. Old Wives' Tales, 1009 Valencia St. 7:30 p.m. 821-4676.

MAY 5-26: Learn traditional techniques of Turkish, Arabic and Egyptian BELLYDANCING in a class with Carolena Nerccio. Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez St. 7:30 p.m. 695-1439.

MAY 6: The Older Women's League presents its annual Wonderful Older Women (WOW) event honoring three San Francisco role models, HELEN "RUSTY" BULCKE, LILLIAN L. HYATT and ELLA RIGNEY. Fort Mason Center, Building A. 6-8 p.m. 992-1196.



Motion Arts Company rings in its ninth year with dances full of dreams and humor on May 13 & 14

MAY 7: Baritone CHARLIE SELTZER sings in a recital of classical, contemporary and folk songs accompanied by Bob Bauer, Lynn Grasberg, and Miriam Cantor. Metropolitan Community Church, 150 Eureka St. 8 p.m. 821-7607.

MAY 7: Walk or run to benefit your favorite nonprofit agency or community group during the 13th annual HUMAN RACE organized by the Volunteer Center of San Francisco. The Marina Green, Marina Boulevard and Fillmore Street. 8 a.m. (8 kilometer run); 9 a.m. (17-kilometer walk). 982-8999.

MAY 7: Join in an authentic Azanian (South African) dinner to support resistance to white supremacy, with MOTHER STONE singing songs of black resistance, followed by video footage of the Ruvi Refugee Center in Ruvi, Tanzania. The Women's Building, 3543 18th St. 6 p.m. 861-6515.

MAY 7: The Ina Chalis OPERA Ensemble celebrates Tchaikovsky's birthday with scenes from *The Queen of Spades*, *Eugen Onegin* and *Iolanta*. Noe Valley Music Series, 1021 Sanchez St. 8-15 p.m. 282-2317.

MAY 7: Ramble through a bargain hunter's delight during the Fair Oaks Neighbors STREET FAIR. Fair Oaks Street between 21st and 26th streets. 8 a.m.-5 p.m. 826-4379.

MAY 9, 16, 23, 30: Singles or couples are invited to attend free classes in ROUND DANCING, taught by Pearl Preston at the Upper Noe Recreation Center, Oay and Sanchez streets. Mondays, 7-7:45 p.m. (beginner and brush-up students), 7:45-9:30 p.m. (experienced dancers). 664-2341 or 558-3601.

MAY 10: Kids 6 and older can take in a VIDEO SHOW featuring Walt Disney's *Candlehoe*, with Jodie Foster and David Niven, at the Noe Valley Library. 451 Jersey St. 3 p.m. 285-2788.

MAY 8: Enjoy an afternoon of jazz dance with choreographer LAUREN COLEMAN and students from her dance classes at the Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez St. 3-30 p.m. 282-2317.

MAY 10: Old Wives' Tales bookstore welcomes author, translator, and publisher BARBARA WILSON in a reading from her newest book of short stories, *Miss Venezuela*. Old Wives' Tales, 1009 Valencia St. 7:30 p.m. 821-4676.

MAY 10: Noe Valley Library presents a CHILDREN'S FILM SHOW for kids 3-5, featuring *A Boy, a Dog, and a Frog*, *Mole in the Zoo*, and *Whistle for Willie*. 451 Jersey St. 10 & 11 a.m. 285-2788.

MAY 10-31: Noe Valley playwright Terry Baum, founder of Lilith women's theatre, offers a class in PLAY-WRIGHTING for women. Tuesdays, 7-30 p.m. 651-7729.

MAY 11: Neighborhood SAFE programs, open space and community conflicts will be discussed at a meeting of the UPPER NOE NEIGHBORS. Upper Noe Recreation Center, Oay and Sanchez streets. 7:30 p.m. Call Janice Gendreau at 641-5989 for details.

MAY 11: Research the history of your house during a discussion with MARY OIERICKX of *Mansion Memoirs*. Noe Valley Library, 451 Jersey St. 7:30 p.m. Free. 285-2788.

MAY 12: The FRIENDS OF NOE VALLEY welcome neighbors to participate in its monthly board meeting. Noe Valley Library, 451 Jersey St. 7:30 p.m. To add to the agenda, call Mary Ann Malinak-Magnus at 285-1496.



The Singing Rainbow Girls Ensemble graces the second annual Youth Arts Festival at the bandshell in Golden Gate Park May 14.

MAY 12-22: Two Asian-American DANCE companies, Kulintang Arts and Unbound Spirit, offer two weekends of dance—one traditional, one modern—at the New Performance Gallery, 3153 17th St. Thur.-Sat., 8:30 p.m.; Sundays, 7 p.m. 552-8980.

MAY 13: Folksinger CAROLYN HESTER performs in concert with guitarist DALE MILLER. Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez St. 8 p.m. 282-2317.

MAY 13 & 14: Dances in Flight presents the Motion Arts Company in a THEATRICAL DANCE production featuring the works: *Humpty Dumpty*, *The Twist*, and *Dance in a Blue Moon*, all directed by Emelle Sonh. In Flight Studios, 333 Dolores St. 8 p.m. 863-4758.

MAY 13, 14, 20, 21: HYENA CABARET presents "Sex Pig and Other Tails," an eclectic assortment of satirical skits, songs, films, dances and monologues. Capp Street Center, 362 Capp St. 8:30 p.m. 648-5191.

MAY 14: The Singing Rainbows GIRLS' ENSEMBLE performs at the second annual Youth Arts Festival running May 11-15 in the Music Concourse and bandshell at Golden Gate Park. 1 p.m.

MAY 15: Third Rail, a literary review, celebrates its ninth issue with a POETRY READING featuring many local poets, music by Phil Deal, and a performance by Tribal Warning Theatre. Intersection for the Arts, 766 Valencia St. 2 p.m. 626-ARTS.



Miriam Sela and the rest of the Pickle Family Circus blow into Glen Park for Memorial Day Weekend, May 28-30.

MAY 16: MARILYN CHIN reads from and signs copies of her new book, *Dwarf Bamboo*, a depiction of the Asian-American struggle with assimilation. Modern Times Bookstore, 968 Valencia St. 7:30 p.m. 282-9246.

MAY 17: Storyteller JOAN SUTTON weaves tales for children 3-5. Noe Valley Library, 451 Jersey St. 10 a.m. 285-2788.

MAY 19: The Committee to Defend Reproductive Rights (CDRR) sponsors the Fourth Annual WOMEN'S COMEDY Night, featuring Over Our Heads, Karen Ripley, Marga Gomez, Karen Williams, Diane Amos and Gail Williams. Renee's Deja Vu, 702 15th St. 8:30 p.m. 826-2100.

MAY 20: Jill Gregory, director of the Novalo Center for Dreams, introduces and discusses the skills and benefits of DREAMING lucidly. The Dream House, 395 Sussex St. 7:30 p.m. 239-6906.

MAY 20: Poet MERLE BACHMAN and musicians GERRY & LESLIE TENNEY team up for an evening of poetry and Yiddish folk songs. Modern Times Bookstore, 968 Valencia St. 7:30 p.m. 282-9246.



Sixties singer/guitarist Carolyn Hester presents old favorites and new songs about the Native American struggle when she appears with Noe Valley Music's Dale Miller May 13, 8 p.m., at 1021 Sanchez St.

MAY 21: Two local schools, Alvarado (625 Douglass St.) and James Lick (1220 Noe St.), will hold open houses for the public to view what PROPOSITION A promises to repair in their buildings. 10 a.m.-noon.

MAY 21: San Francisco Parks and Recreation hosts a DEDICATION CEREMONY for the newly renovated Douglass Park fieldhouse, followed by refreshments, speakers, and a band from one of Noe Valley's neighborhood schools. Douglass Park, Douglass and 26th streets. 11 a.m. 558-4837.

MAY 22: JOHN D'EMILIO and ESTELLE B. FREEDMAN, authors of *Intimate Matters: A History of Sexuality in America*, offer their interpretation of sexuality in relation to sex, gender and class inequalities. Modern Times Bookstore, 968 Valencia St. 7:30 p.m. 282-9246.

MAY 22: LEFT COAST CABARET hosts a benefit for the Plant Closures Project, with music by Jon Fromer and the Wellfare Cheats and poetry by Sue Doro and Carol Tarlen. New College, 777 Valencia St. 7 p.m. 431-7980.

MAY 26: Spray can artist CRAYDN, one of the city's most prominent wall writers, gives a lecture and slide presentation at the Precita Eyes Mural Arts Center, 248 Precita Ave. 7:30 p.m. 285-2287.

MAY 26: In a 1987 VIDEO interview, former Black Panther party leader Assata Shakur announces for the first time her presence in Cuba after escaping from a New Jersey prison. Old Wives' Tales, 1009 Valencia St. 7:30 p.m. 821-4676.

MAY 28, 29, 30: The San Francisco Council of Parent Participation Nursery Schools sponsors a Memorial Day weekend with the PICKLE FAMILY CIRCUS, featuring clowns, tumblers, aerialists and jugglers cavorting to music by the Pickle's live jazz band. Glen Park, Elk, Chenery and Bosworth streets. Noon & 3 p.m. 587-8148.

MAY 1988

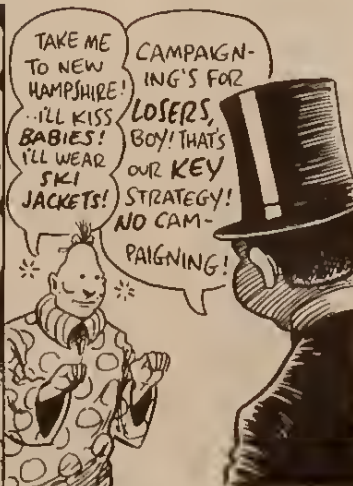
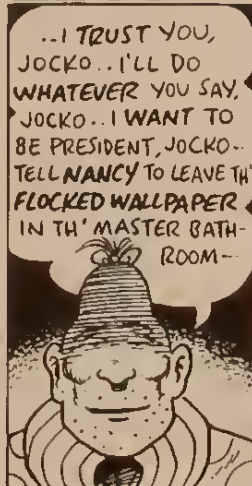
MAY 6: Folksinger STEVE SESKIN joins special guest HEIDI MULLER. Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez St. 8 p.m. 282-2317.

MAY 6: The Mission Cultural Center hosts a MOTHER'S DAY RECEPTION honoring women organizing for social change in El Salvador. 2868 Mission St. 6 p.m. 864-7755.

MAY 7: The National Network of Educators sponsors a conference on "Teaching Central America: Educating Our Students, Empowering Ourselves." St. Paul's High School, 317 29th St. 9 a.m.-5 p.m. 821-1560.

MAY 7 & 8: The 22nd annual San Francisco CINCO DE MAYO celebration features Democratic presidential hopeful Jesse Jackson leading a parade through the Mission, a 3.7-mile razzathon run, a two-day outdoor cultural festival, and a night of music (Noche de Musica). The parade starts at 20th and Mission streets (May 7, 11 a.m.-1 p.m.); the run will go through the Mission District, beginning at Ralph Playground, Army and Potrero streets (May 8, 9 a.m.); the Noche de Musica will be at the University of California/Berkeley's Greek Theatre (May 7, 5-11 p.m.); and the Cultural Festival will be at Raza Park, 24th and Potrero streets (May 7 & 8, 11 a.m.-6 p.m.). Call the Mission Economic and Cultural Association at 826-1401 for more information.

ZIPPY



BILL GRIFFITH

The Scoop on CALENDAR

Please send calendar items before the 15th day of the month preceding month of issue to the *Noe Valley Voice*, 1021 Sanchez St., San Francisco, CA 94114. Items are published on a space-available basis, with Noe Valley neighborhood events receiving priority. Note: Our next issue will appear June 1. The deadline for calendar items is May 15, 1988.